

# **NYPA Renewables Updated Strategic Plan**

Hearing Transcripts

December 9, 2025





**NY Power  
Authority**

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NYPA RENEWABLES DRAFT UPDATED STRATEGIC PLAN

PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

On behalf of NYPA:

LINDSAY KRYZAK

CHRISTOPHER HUTSON

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1           CHRISTOPHER HUTSON: Good morning. Thank  
2 you for joining today. My name is Chris Hutson,  
3 and I am the Senior Vice President of NYPA  
4 Development.

5           A little bit of background about me is, I  
6 started with the Nuclear Navy. I've worked in EPC  
7 businesses over the last 25 years, and I recently  
8 started with NYPA here in March of this year.

9           We are here because NYPA issued a draft of  
10 its Updated Renewables Strategic Plan on July  
11 29th, and we wanted to hear your feedback.

12           The Power Authority committed to adding new  
13 projects to its inaugural plan, and that's exactly  
14 what it did, and that's what we're here to  
15 discuss. We scheduled two virtual public hearings  
16 to solicit input from the public, from all of you.

17           Today is the first, and we have another one  
18 tomorrow, tomorrow night, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00  
19 p.m.

20           If someone you know is unable to attend  
21 today's session in person, please let them know  
22 NYPA is accepting written comments online through  
23 September 12th.

24           Today is a listening session. We are here  
25 to hear from you, so after a brief presentation,

1 we will invite those who signed up to speak to  
2 share their public comments. They will be  
3 transcribed and entered into the public record and  
4 official comments. So, let's begin.

5 The next slide.

6 I imagine most of you are familiar with who  
7 we are as NYPA, but I'll share a bit of background  
8 for those of you who are just starting to follow  
9 us on our renewables journey.

10 The New York Power Authority, or NYPA, is  
11 the largest state public organization in the  
12 nation. We operate 17 generating facilities,  
13 generating about a quarter of the state's  
14 electricity. We also own, operate, and maintain  
15 more than 1,550 circuit miles of transmission  
16 lines, approximately one-third of the state's  
17 high-voltage transmission grid.

18 In addition to operating some of the  
19 state's largest power projects, we provide clean  
20 energy and energy-efficiency solutions to state  
21 and local municipalities, public agencies, and  
22 authorities.

23 We also oversee a variety of economic  
24 development programs, and are the stewards of the  
25 state's canal system, that is celebrating its

1           Bicentennial year this year.

2                       Recently, Governor Hochul directed us to  
3           build one gigawatt of nuclear energy. That work  
4           stream is still in the very early stages of  
5           development, but it's an opportunity we're excited  
6           about. While the nuclear project we also support,  
7           it will also support the development of an  
8           emissions-free, reliable, and resilient electric  
9           grid, it is separate and apart from our efforts to  
10          build new renewable projects throughout the state.  
11          That effort is what we're here to discuss today.

12                      I'll now describe our Draft Updated  
13          Strategic Plan in some more detail.

14                      The next slide.

15                      These three charts illustrate the breakdown  
16          of our renewable projects and opportunities as  
17          part of the strategic plan. The first tranche of  
18          opportunities was approved in January, and  
19          consisted of 37 projects, representing more than  
20          3,000 megawatts of capacity.

21                      The center graphic represents all the new  
22          renewable opportunities we've identified,  
23          including nearly 800 megawatts of land-based wind,  
24          and a substantial amount of energy storage; a good  
25          mix of both solar, wind, and storage for new

1 projects.

2 The vast majority of these storage assets,  
3 around 150, are part of three project portfolios  
4 and are primarily located in New York City in  
5 Westchester County.

6 The first graphic -- the final graphic  
7 represents the total mix of projects and  
8 portfolios that are included in this draft of the  
9 updated strategic plan.

10 You'll note they cumulatively represent  
11 nearly 7 gigawatts of potential new capacity.  
12 We're proud of the diversity of this portfolio,  
13 and I'll comb through this with a little more  
14 detail and specificity.

15 The next slide.

16 Now, it's no secret that the recent federal  
17 actions aimed to curb the advancement of wind and  
18 solar projects will impact the market, our  
19 co-developers, and our identified renewable  
20 opportunities. Generally speaking, the federal  
21 actions laid out in H.R. 1, also known as the One  
22 Big Beautiful Bill, are ending federal income tax  
23 credits for wind and solar projects.

24 However, I want to make it clear that in  
25 spite of these challenges and incoming

1 constraints, we are moving forward, honoring our  
2 commitments to build a portfolio of clean energy  
3 projects that will strengthen our state's grid  
4 with diversified generation resources.

5 With those new federal challenges in mind,  
6 I'll briefly touch on some of our risk mitigation  
7 strategies: We want to safe harbor or lock in tax  
8 credits for as many projects as possible with  
9 limited time before the eligibility of these  
10 credits expires.

11 This slide identifies three lenses we will  
12 use to identify which projects to prioritize first  
13 in addition to our project evaluation criteria set  
14 forth in the original strategic plan. Where they  
15 stand in their associated permitting processes is  
16 number one. Depending on the projects, that could  
17 relate to obtaining site approval through the  
18 Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric  
19 Transmission, ORES, or the State Environmental  
20 Quality Review Act, SEQRA.

21 We are closely following whether projects  
22 have received state environmental reviews and  
23 permits. We are also monitoring the availability  
24 of federal permits, including new requirements,  
25 increased scrutiny, and reduced staff for

1 reviewing permit applications; if they are, they  
2 may be subject to unpredictable delays.

3 Number two: We're also looking at projects  
4 that have, or are competitive enough to secure, an  
5 offtake agreement for their output, such as a  
6 Renewable Energy Credit agreement with NYSERDA  
7 under the upcoming solicitation or a power  
8 purchase agreement with a customer that NYPA has  
9 the authority to sell power and/or RECs to. This  
10 is a big component of a project's economic  
11 viability.

12 And finally, we are examining projects with  
13 well-established supply chains; lead times for  
14 major equipment on utility-scale projects, such as  
15 high-voltage transformers, can be multiple years.  
16 Every developer in the country right now is  
17 seeking to rapidly procure equipment and safe  
18 harbor their projects with the addition of new tax  
19 credit deadlines.

20 So, there is expected to be a supply and  
21 demand imbalance for resources. This means that  
22 it will be critical to move fast and work with  
23 developers who have strong existing supply chain  
24 relationships.

25 The next slide.

1           This map shows where all the projects and  
2 portfolios, including in the draft of the Updated  
3 Strategic Plan, are located. The zoomed-in figure  
4 on the right illustrates the potential storage  
5 capacity associated with the three portfolios in  
6 the second tranche across the City's outer  
7 boroughs and in Westchester.

8           There are currently more than 350 renewable  
9 generating projects in the New York ISO  
10 Interconnection Queue and Cluster Study. More  
11 than 40 of those projects are included in our  
12 plan. We have the expertise and drive to move  
13 these projects along.

14           Additionally, the draft plan contains 13  
15 projects with executed NYSERDA Tier 1 REC  
16 agreements.

17           The next slide.

18           I now would like to take a minute to  
19 showcase the tremendous progress we've made  
20 advancing these projects on both sides of the  
21 house, self-developed and co-developed. To do so,  
22 it is necessary to split the two buckets of  
23 projects into separate charts illustrating  
24 different parameters, as the work by our teams are  
25 fundamentally different.

1           For self-developed projects, we start from  
2 scratch. That begins with the project lead  
3 vetting through pre-feasibility assessments before  
4 progressing to more complex full feasibility  
5 studies that require visits to the site.

6           After that, projects advance to development  
7 by preparing and submitting interconnection and  
8 permitting applications. To date, about 130  
9 megawatts of our proposed projects on greenfield  
10 pipelines have advanced from feasibility studies  
11 into early-stage or active development.

12           For co-developed projects, evaluating and  
13 advancing these opportunities is more of a  
14 partnership. Our teams are constantly digging  
15 through data and working with internal and  
16 external subject matter experts to determine each  
17 project's viability. That entails more than just  
18 determining associated revenues that could be  
19 generated.

20           We also explore the benefits that could be  
21 delivered to the grid and to the communities  
22 across the state.

23           The next slide.

24           Something our team is really proud of is  
25 the Renewable Energy Access Community Help, or

1 REACH program, which attributes a portion of the  
2 project's revenue towards reducing utility bills  
3 for low-income households within disadvantaged  
4 communities across the state.

5 NYPA announced its first REACH project in  
6 April in Albany, alongside Mayor Kathy Sheehan and  
7 DEC Commissioner Amanda Lefton. That project will  
8 be a 1.5 megawatt solar project at a capped  
9 landfill in North Albany/Shaker Park.

10 As a reminder, our first tranche had four  
11 projects designated to be developed under the  
12 REACH program, representing more than 100  
13 megawatts, two of which have progressed into  
14 active development so far.

15 With this new tranche, all the 152  
16 distributed-scale storage systems within the three  
17 project portfolios we've added will be explored  
18 for development under REACH.

19 The next slide.

20 Now, I'll end my introduction today with a  
21 snapshot of what comes next: The public comments  
22 period ends September 12th, so I'll ask everyone  
23 here who has not done so already to submit their  
24 comments to the public comment portal on our  
25 website.

1 Today's speaker comments will be recorded,  
2 transcribed, and added to the record. All of your  
3 comments submitted or spoken at our two virtual  
4 public hearings will be compiled and reviewed by  
5 my team and our legal team, and will be shared  
6 with the NYPA Board of Trustees and executive  
7 leadership. They will also be available publicly  
8 on our website.

9 In December, our Board will vote to approve  
10 NYPA's updated strategic plan. Additionally,  
11 information on that timing and on the full draft  
12 plan can be found at [NYPA.gov/renewables](http://NYPA.gov/renewables).

13 As we've discussed, we are aware that there  
14 may be hurdles ahead, but with your support and  
15 the support of our team here at NYPA, we will  
16 continue to do all we can to build a diverse  
17 portfolio of clean energy projects that bolster  
18 our state's electric grid and benefits all New  
19 Yorkers. Thank you.

20 I will now turn the mic over to Lindsay  
21 Kryzak, who will kick off the public comment  
22 portion of our session. Lindsay.

23 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Chris.

24 I'll remind everyone that the law requires  
25 a 30-day public comment period and one public

1 hearing on any update to the Strategic Plan. We  
2 believe in hearing from and engaging with the  
3 public is essential, and chose to hold two virtual  
4 hearings on this update. The second hearing will  
5 be tomorrow, August 20th, starting at 6:00 p.m.  
6 The public comment period will also run for 45  
7 days, concluding on September 12th.

8 Today, we'll call on everyone who has  
9 signed up to speak, and all speakers will be given  
10 three minutes to deliver a public comment for the  
11 record.

12 We recognize some of you may have longer  
13 comments than others; if you run out of time, you  
14 can submit your full comment on our public comment  
15 portal accessible through [NYPA.gov/renewables](http://NYPA.gov/renewables).

16 Speakers who do not use their full three  
17 minutes may not give their excess time to others.  
18 We are sticking to that three-minute time limit to  
19 ensure everyone who wishes to is able to share  
20 their comments.

21 As a reminder, the Power Authority is  
22 transcribing this event that may be maintained,  
23 used, and disclosed to the extent authorized or  
24 required by applicable law, regulation, or order.  
25 And it may be made available in whole or in part

1 in the public record in accordance with the  
2 organization's rules.

3 Our first speaker today is George Nunez.  
4 George.

5 We'll come back to George. He may be  
6 having some technical issues.

7 Our next speaker is Fred Harrison. Fred?

8 FRED HARRISON: Yes, thank you.

9 Can you hear me?

10 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Fred. Go  
11 ahead.

12 FRED HARRISON: Yes. Thank you very much.

13 My name is Fred Harrison. I live in  
14 Merrick. I'm a volunteer with Food & Water Watch  
15 on Long Island. I am also an independent  
16 ratepayer advocate on matters having to do with  
17 LIPA-PSEG.

18 I'm going to address the specific situation  
19 of Long Island as reflected in the report: The  
20 service territory of Long Island Power Authority,  
21 or LIPA, covers almost 3 million people with a  
22 costly energy system largely dependent on fossil  
23 fuels.

24 As you know, LIPA electric rates are the  
25 second-highest in the state. The LIPA service

1 territory clearly meets the required metrics  
2 established by NYPA in its Strategic Plan: A good  
3 market, finances, and so on. Yet, LIPA's service  
4 territory, serving 15 percent of New York's  
5 population, gets less than 5 percent of NYPA's  
6 projects, only two battery storage facilities. No  
7 new ones were added in the revised report.

8 If a proportionality rule applied, a  
9 minimum of six projects would be on the list for  
10 Long Island, a region suffering from a shortage of  
11 renewable energy.

12 LIPA-PSEG gets about 6 percent of its  
13 electricity from renewables. What went wrong?  
14 How could this pass muster? How could NYPA's  
15 Board of Trustees, which includes  
16 Mr. Warren from Long Island, give its approval to  
17 short-changing LIPA ratepayers and taxpayers?

18 This past spring, several of us met with  
19 NYPA staff on this problem and thought we had a  
20 meeting of the minds, or at least an understanding  
21 of the situation and the needs of Long Island  
22 ratepayers. Apparently not.

23 Long Islanders will not sit still for such  
24 unfair treatment. I hope the Board is listening  
25 carefully and remediates this problem.

1 Thank you for your time.

2 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Fred.

3 Our next speaker is Sara Schultz. Sara?

4 We'll come back to Sara.

5 Our next speaker is Jessica Enzmann.

6 Jessica?

7 JESSICA ENZMANN: Hello. My name is

8 Jessica Enzmann. I'm commenting today as a New

9 York resident, though I am employed with the

10 Sierra Club.

11 I strongly support the increased ambition  
12 of the updated renewable energy plan, which  
13 represents a critical step forward in meeting our  
14 climate goals. I strongly support an additional 7  
15 gigawatts of wind, solar, and storage to be built.  
16 The ambition of this plan shows that NYPA is  
17 taking proactive steps to retire small natural gas  
18 plants.

19 As a New Yorker who cares deeply about our  
20 collective future and mitigating the climate  
21 crisis, I am excited about this progress. I am  
22 also excited to see NYPA continue to increase  
23 their ambition into the future.

24 As a ratepayer and homeowner on Long  
25 Island, I'm excited to see the transition towards

1 renewable energy across the state that will also  
2 increase ambition on Long Island into the future.

3 Thank you.

4 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Jessica.

5 Our next speaker is Janet Lenichek. Janet.

6 JANET LENICHEK: Hello. Can you hear me?

7 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can, Janet. Thank you.

8 JANET LENICHEK: All right.

9 My name is Janet Lenichek. I live in  
10 Williamsville, New York. I am a member and active  
11 volunteer with the Sierra Club. I've been very  
12 active with them since about 2014, after I retired  
13 from my full-time job. And the reason I did this  
14 is because I'm very, very concerned about climate  
15 change and what it's doing to the planet, the  
16 environment, and the effects on human health. I'm  
17 very concerned about future generations.

18 According to an analysis from the Clean  
19 Energy Associates, the new federal tax rules could  
20 result in a reduction of -- in building 60  
21 gigawatts of clean energy over the next five  
22 years. The U.S. can't afford to lose this energy  
23 generation capacity.

24 Electricity demand is growing faster than  
25 it has in decades due to massive data centers,

1 building and vehicle electrification, and the  
2 reshoring of some portions of U.S. manufacturing.

3 When energy demand goes up, and supply  
4 doesn't meet demand, energy prices go up, and this  
5 is happening across the country, even in New York  
6 State. This is a crucial time for New York and  
7 other visionary states to make plans and take  
8 actions that will quickly advance renewable energy  
9 development.

10 The states must lead on renewable energy  
11 because our current federal government has  
12 abdicated its responsibility.

13 According to an article published in  
14 Reuters in June of this year, land-based wind and  
15 solar-generated power are the least expensive  
16 forms of electricity in the United States, even  
17 without government subsidies.

18 NYPA's plan to increase renewable energy  
19 production in New York State is a breath of fresh  
20 air during these awful times of negative news  
21 coming out of Washington. At the same time that  
22 our federal government is slowing the transition  
23 to renewable energy, NYPA has acted responsibly  
24 and put together a solid plan to expand renewable  
25 energy capacity in order to meet the future

1           electrical energy needs of New York State.

2                   Kudos to you, and thank you for your work  
3           in putting this plan together.

4                   LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Janet.

5                   Our next speaker is Michael Paulson.

6           Michael?

7                   MICHAEL PAULSON: Hi. Good morning.

8                   My name is Michael Paulson. I'm the  
9           Associate Director of Sane Energy Project, and I'm  
10          going to speak to the question of finance.

11                   At every step of the way, going back to  
12          last year's hearings, NYPA has told us that  
13          finance is the constraining factor on the  
14          renewables buildout, and the reason that you  
15          cannot build to build 15 gigawatts by 2030, as  
16          demanded by the AFL-CIO, and Building Trades  
17          Council, the American Lung Association, the Black,  
18          Puerto Rican, Hispanic, and Asian Caucus, and over  
19          5300 New Yorkers.

20                   But NYPA does have the financial capacity  
21          to build 15 gigawatts, and more. The question is  
22          whether you actually want to. NYPA says in the  
23          Strategic Plan that they conducted a comprehensive  
24          research process to determine how much they could  
25          feasibly build, but they have not published the

1 results of this study. They must publish the  
2 results so that New Yorkers can see for ourselves.

3 Second, NYPA says that they can't issue  
4 bonds to finance renewables because of the risk to  
5 their credit rating, but they already issue bonds  
6 to finance transmission projects while maintaining  
7 their credit rating.

8 And according to a study published by the  
9 Public Power New York Coalition, NYPA could  
10 develop a vast amount of publicly-owned renewable  
11 energy while maintaining a credit rating that is  
12 comparable to other public power utilities in the  
13 us.

14 Next, Justin Driscoll testified last  
15 year -- or rather, earlier this year, before the  
16 New York State legislature, that he had not  
17 approached the Governor to fund public renewables  
18 directly. This year, the state budget allocated  
19 \$200 million for public renewables development.  
20 NYPA can and should ask the Governor for more  
21 funding.

22 In last year's hearings, we were told that  
23 3.5 gigawatts was the absolute maximum that NYPA  
24 could finance, but now we are looking at an  
25 updated plan for 7 gigawatts. This change

1 indicates that when there is enough public  
2 urgency, NYPA can find the necessary capital to  
3 develop more projects.

4 Public-private projects will also attract  
5 significant private capital because it is  
6 currently very difficult for private developers to  
7 build projects on the -- on their own in the  
8 post-IRA landscape.

9 As you all know, the costs of inaction on  
10 the climate crisis outweigh the costs of the  
11 energy transition by orders of magnitude. We are  
12 one of the wealthiest states in the wealthiest  
13 country in the world. We have the pow- -- the  
14 financial power to build 15 gigawatts and more.  
15 Let's use that power and have New York State lead  
16 the country in our energy transition.

17 Thank you.

18 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Michael.

19 Our next speaker is Robert Ciesielski.

20 Robert?

21 Excuse me. Robert Ciesielski. I  
22 apologize.

23 ROBERT CIESIELSKI: Good morning.

24 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Good morning, Robert.

25 ROBERT CIESIELSKI: I'm co-chair of the

1 Energy Committee of the Sierra Club's Atlantic  
2 Chapter. And the Club supports the proposal of  
3 the Power Authority to build an additional 7  
4 gigawatts of solar PV, land-based wind turbines,  
5 and energy storage facilities.

6 There has been much talk about affordable  
7 electricity in New York State. Data from the New  
8 York -- from the U.S. Department of Energy and the  
9 National Renewable Energy Laboratory, shows that  
10 land-based wind and solar-generated power is the  
11 least expensive form of -- of electricity in the  
12 U.S., even without subsidies.

13 Fortunately, this is an -- this is fully in  
14 sync with the goals of the 2019 CLCPA to produce  
15 70 percent of the state's electricity from  
16 renewables, as well as the 2022 recommendation of  
17 the Climate Action Council, that the maximum  
18 electrification of our state's power system is the  
19 least expensive and quickest way to reduce  
20 greenhouse gas emissions and control climate  
21 change.

22 In contrast, figures show that the cost of  
23 building gas plants has risen substantially in the  
24 last several years, and nuclear power generation  
25 is the most expensive when comparing dollars per

1 kilowatt hour.

2 Our organization is concerned about what  
3 might be backsliding on the part of our state  
4 concerning energy goals, including the recent  
5 decision of the Public Service Commission not to  
6 prioritize your clean energy path transmission  
7 line proposal.

8 Yes, we are all concerned about the current  
9 federal administration, which appears to have  
10 fallen completely under the control of the oil and  
11 gas industry. Despite President Trump's  
12 statements about failing renewables, last year,  
13 Germany provided 60 percent of its electricity  
14 needs from renewables, and expects to reduce its  
15 greenhouse gas emissions by 65 percent by 2030.

16 According to international reports, last  
17 year, 92 percent of new power capacity worldwide  
18 came from renewable sources. And speaking of  
19 speed of installation, China installed 144  
20 gigawatts -- not megawatts, gigawatts -- of solar  
21 and wind power generation capacity between January  
22 and June of this year.

23 New York State is on the right energy path  
24 to provide reliable, affordable, and clean  
25 electricity. Please approve the 7 watt- --

1 gigawatt of renewables recommended in your  
2 proposal, and any further increase would also be  
3 helpful. Thank you very much for your time.

4 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Robert.

5 Our next speaker is Jeff Schumann. Jeff?

6 JEFF SCHUMANN: Hi, there.

7 This is Jeff Schumann. Can you hear me?

8 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Jeff.

9 JEFF SCHUMANN: I live in Cortlandt,  
10 Westchester County. I'm also a volunteer with the  
11 Sierra Club.

12 I will be submitting written comments, so  
13 for today, I just want to highlight a couple of  
14 points: I first want to commend NYPA on the  
15 number of projects you have committed to;  
16 developing nearly the 5 gigawatts of solar and  
17 wind production is a big step in helping New York  
18 meet the renewable energy goals in the CLCPA.  
19 This is the type of bold leadership and commitment  
20 that it seems our government officials and  
21 regulators sadly lack.

22 I was heartened also to see that the energy  
23 storage capacity in the new plan was increased to  
24 2 gigawatts. Going -- going forward, hopefully,  
25 peaker plants can be retired and replaced with

1 more energy storage projects.

2 One point I would like to make about energy  
3 storage is that I would like to see NYPA pursue  
4 more non-battery technologies, such as the  
5 compressed air storage project in Lewis County  
6 that is listed. There is a lot of local  
7 opposition to battery storage projects because of  
8 the perceived fire hazards. Non-battery options  
9 would eliminate that argument.

10 I also got the impression from reading the  
11 report that financing is a limiting factor when it  
12 comes to the number and size of projects that NYPA  
13 can support. This seems to be due, in part, at  
14 least, to NYPA's majority ownership requirement  
15 and inability to sell down projects.

16 I would like it if NYPA could work with  
17 government officials and other regulators to seek  
18 changes in that majority ownership requirement,  
19 but only for renewable projects.

20 Thank you.

21 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Jeff.

22 Our next speaker is Elizabeth Hariba.

23 Elizabeth?

24 We'll give Elizabeth another minute.

25 Our next speaker is Michael Richardson.

1 Michael?

2 MICHAEL RICHARDSON: Can you hear me?

3 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Michael.

4 MICHAEL RICHARDSON: Hello. I am Michael  
5 Richardson. I reside in the Village of Chatham in  
6 Columbia County. I'm a ratepayer in the NYSEG  
7 utility, and I am the co-facilitator of Third Act  
8 for Upstate New York.

9 I would like to speak to you today about  
10 the capacity to build out 15 gigawatts of  
11 renewable energy. As we all know, the federal  
12 programs are being erased, and the plans for New  
13 York State have been, at best, slowed down, and in  
14 many cases, paused.

15 However, as far as greenhouse gases going  
16 into the atmosphere, this is something that cannot  
17 be erased. And as far as climate change, this is  
18 something that cannot be paused.

19 I was amazed to find in the recent state  
20 energy plan, all 88 pages, climate change was not  
21 mentioned once. So, we need to take a look at  
22 what we have and what we don't have. I mentioned  
23 what we don't have, and that's the federal  
24 programs. And also, when we look at the state,  
25 we've, at best, since the Climate Scoping Plan was

1 put into place, had incrementalism, if not  
2 downright inaction. And now, apparently, in many  
3 aspects, we're seeing part of our landmark climate  
4 law just simply ignored.

5 So, what we do have, what we can work with,  
6 are certain programs, such as the PSC, NYSERDA  
7 program, New York-Sun, for distributed solar,  
8 which has been able to produce renewable energy,  
9 solar energy, at a scale that is faster than  
10 planned, that is cheaper than planned, and has the  
11 magnitude to produce quite a bit more.

12 We also, on the electrification and  
13 pre-solarization side, have EmPower+, two programs  
14 that are doing better than planned, and need to  
15 have more emphasis. They need to be amplified.  
16 But to the utility-scale solar and the  
17 community-scale solar, we have NYPA.

18 And here we have, as you all know, the  
19 science, the technology, and the ability to  
20 finance more than 7 gigawatts of energy. And if  
21 we're going to find our way out of this climate  
22 crisis that we cannot put a pause on, we need to  
23 ask for the rapid transition to renewable energy,  
24 and one of the best ways is publicly-owned energy  
25 through NYPA.

1 Thank you for receiving my --

2 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you.

3 Our next speaker is Jeanne Bergman.

4 Jeanne.

5 JEANNE BERGMAN: Hello. Can you hear me?

6 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Jeanne.

7 JEANNE BERGMAN: Thank you.

8 My name is Jeanne Bergman. I am the  
9 Director of Thermal Energy Networks for Sane  
10 Energy Project, and of course, a ratepayer in New  
11 York. I live in Saugerties.

12 I want to address, first of all, the  
13 urgency of increasing the Strategic Plan goal from  
14 7 gigawatts by 2030 to 15 gigawatts. That seems  
15 absolutely urgent.

16 But I would also encourage NYPA to add the  
17 development of distributed geothermal systems,  
18 especially thermal energy networks, and especially  
19 geothermal in public schools from K-12 through  
20 colleges and universities in New York State, owned  
21 by New York State. There are some projects  
22 currently at a very small scale for some of the  
23 colleges, but nothing planned for the schools, to  
24 my knowledge, the K-12.

25 One of the things that is so valuable about

1 geothermal systems is that they reduce the demand  
2 for electricity. So, there's two ways to respond  
3 to the increasing demand for electricity: One is  
4 to make more through renewables, and the other is  
5 to use less through geothermal systems.

6 Schools, in particular, in the face of  
7 uncontrolled climate change, need not only the  
8 ability to heat their plants, but also to cool  
9 them, and geothermal provides both.

10 I would encourage NYPA to add affordable,  
11 safe, healthy geothermal heating and cooling, and  
12 solar, to New York state schools, and to use that  
13 as part of the component -- as one of the  
14 components for accomplishing the 15 gigawatts.  
15 Thank you.

16 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Jeanne.

17 Our next speaker is William Parsons.

18 William.

19 We'll come back to William.

20 Our next speaker is Mark Dunlea. Mark.

21 MARK DUNLEA: I'm sorry. Can you hear me  
22 now?

23 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Mark.

24 MARK DUNLEA: Thank you. My name is Mark  
25 Dunlea, and I am the Convener of PAUSE, People of

1 Albany United for Safe Energy, which is a 350.org  
2 affiliate in the Capital District. I'm also the  
3 Chair of the Green Education and Legal Fund.

4 I wish to speak in favor of NYPA increasing  
5 its goals to build public renewables to at least  
6 15 gigawatts by 2030. Like many of us, of course,  
7 I'm very concerned that the State is failing to  
8 meet its obligations under the State's climate  
9 law, the CLCPA. Climate change is accelerating.  
10 Extreme weather is already ravaging much of the  
11 planet. For the last year and a half, global  
12 warming has increased above the 1.5-degree  
13 threshold that was largely agreed to in Paris.

14 And the State, unfortunately, is indicating  
15 that it does not expect to meet the -- the goals  
16 set out in the CLCPA, such as the 70 percent of  
17 the State's electricity coming from renewable by  
18 2030. I think they're now predicting only about  
19 44 percent.

20 So, we really need NYPA to step up and fill  
21 in the gap that the private sector has not been --  
22 been able to do.

23 I do want to echo in the comments made by  
24 Jeanne Bergman about the issue of geothermal. And  
25 particularly, NYPA, you need to be moving a lot

1 faster on putting geothermal at the state capital.

2 There's not enough projects planned for the  
3 Hudson Valley and Downstate New York. There's  
4 also not a detailed plan for shutting down NYPA's  
5 peaker plants by 2030, as required by law.  
6 Gas-fired peaker plants are a public health  
7 disaster for host communities, which are heavily  
8 burdened by other polluting infrastructure.

9 You know, in doing this work, of course, we  
10 urge the -- NYPA to pay attention to the  
11 environmental justice impact. And despite the  
12 opposition by the Trump administration, we  
13 certainly urge NYPA to play a role in the  
14 development of offshore wind.

15 Thank you.

16 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Mark.

17 Our next speaker is Anne Erling. Anne.

18 ANNE ERLING: Can you hear me?

19 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Anne.

20 ANNE ERLING: Hi, I'm Anne Erling from  
21 Albany. I'm glad to see that this new draft  
22 includes additional projects beyond the earlier 3  
23 gigawatt plan, but I ask that NYPA add additional  
24 projects to achieve a plan of 15 gigawatts of  
25 renewable power development by 2030.

1 I've heard that an inability to identify  
2 places to build public renewables is at least part  
3 of the context for NYPA's proposing only 7  
4 gigawatts of renewables development instead of the  
5 15 that's needed to meet CLCPA requirements.

6 I ask that NYPA expand its search beyond  
7 large plots of land and focus attention instead on  
8 what can be done by linking together small  
9 distributed power sources, that is, by building a  
10 virtual or distributed power plant located in  
11 public entities in New York State.

12 New York has 593 municipalities and 62  
13 counties, 89 SUNY and CUNY campuses, and almost  
14 5,000 public and charter schools, all with  
15 buildings that, with NYPA's help, can be called  
16 upon to add power when needed to New York's grid.  
17 Many also have bus fleets and other EVs with  
18 batteries that can be added to this mix.

19 Significantly, the academic buildings and  
20 vehicles on this list have less going on during  
21 summers when New York experiences peak energy  
22 draw, so we'll have power to spare precisely when  
23 the State needs it.

24 California's recent July 29th test of its  
25 growing virtual power plant showed the dramatic

1           impact an aggregation of tiny power producers can  
2           have in helping a state neutralize increased  
3           demand during peak periods, thereby avoiding  
4           peaker plant use and fossil fuel network  
5           expansion.

6           Extra benefits of this approach: A  
7           smoother siting process given its focus on  
8           publicly-owned properties, work generated, and  
9           reduced long-term energy costs in every community  
10          across the state. Also, centering this  
11          development in highly visible community centers  
12          will spread public awareness that we're in an  
13          essential transition away from fossil fuels to  
14          renewable energy use, providing a visible model  
15          for what we all must do to our own homes.

16          I've had the great fortune of having  
17          virtually attended the last two UN Climate  
18          conferences, COP28 and 29, in the UAE and  
19          Azerbaijan. No one can experience a COP that is  
20          two weeks of heart-wrenching reports of climate  
21          wreckage from island states, and least developed  
22          countries, and extraordinarily sobering data from  
23          scientists, without emerging with a firm sense  
24          that we do not have the moral luxury to miss our  
25          emission reduction targets here in New York, as

1 we're on track to do.

2 What we're doing here in New York is  
3 directly tied to current wreckage elsewhere in the  
4 world and to our own similar future. We need NYPA  
5 to propel forward sufficient renewable energy  
6 development to get New York back on track to meet  
7 CLCPA requirements. We need this plan expanded to  
8 include 15 gigawatts of renewable power  
9 development by 2030.

10 Thank you very much for the opportunity to  
11 present this public comment.

12 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Anne.

13 Our next speaker is Klaus Yoder. Klaus.

14 KLAUS YODER: Hi. Can you hear me?

15 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Klaus.

16 KLAUS YODER: Great. Thank you.

17 I'm Klaus Yoder, a steering committee  
18 member of Hudson Valley Public Power Coalition.  
19 While I was really encouraged by the revision to  
20 the Strategic Plan from 3 gigawatts to 7, I'm  
21 calling on NYPA to build out 15 gigawatts to  
22 protect the climate, lower costs for consumers,  
23 and grow the green economy while supporting  
24 organized labor.

25 I especially urge NYPA to build more

1 downstate in the Hudson Valley, where I'm based in  
2 New Paltz, where we have such a high need for  
3 electricity and such high bills from approved rate  
4 hikes from the likes of Con Ed and Central Hudson.

5 Extending the REACH program to my home  
6 region would help so many working-class New  
7 Yorkers ensure that the state is delivering for  
8 them in a time when our national administration is  
9 hellbent on suffocating us with despair and  
10 cynicism about what government can do for working  
11 people.

12 As a member of the campaign to bring public  
13 power to the Hudson Valley, I'm really invested in  
14 NYPA expanding its capacity to generate renewable  
15 energy. The Hudson Valley Power Authority is set  
16 to bring energy democracy to the Hudson Valley by  
17 making energy a public good with public oversight,  
18 but we also need climate justice to ensure that  
19 this democracy fosters a sustainable niche for a  
20 livable world, especially for those now bearing  
21 the brunt of environmental racism.

22 That's why it's urgent that, in addition to  
23 building out 15 megawatts, NYPA puts itself in a  
24 position to deactivate the hyper-polluting peaker  
25 plants whose emissions affect the health of

1 economically disadvantaged communities of color,  
2 most perniciously.

3 In my work for the Hudson Valley Power  
4 Authority, I see firsthand the impact of the  
5 affordability crisis that most New Yorkers are  
6 subject to. As investor-owned utilities, like  
7 Central Hudson, get approval from the PSC to raise  
8 rates and increase their rates of profit, NYPA  
9 provides massive discounts to multinational  
10 corporations, including Amazon, Citibank, and  
11 Lockheed Martin, whose interests are diametrically  
12 opposed to all of our well-being.

13 As Trump kills solar and wind tax credits,  
14 New York state needs to lead on climate and not  
15 retreat. God willing, in the future, every one of  
16 us is going to be able to tell the younger  
17 generation what we did to make a real difference  
18 in this moment, not how we knuckled under to  
19 fascism.

20 NYPA is an institution with an incredible  
21 new deal pedigree, hard-working and extremely  
22 capable staff, and trustees. Its work should not  
23 be hamstrung by a Governor or a chief executive  
24 who caters to the needs of the super wealthy  
25 instead of working New Yorkers.

1           So, in conclusion, I would urge NYPA to  
2           keep going in the right direction and take it from  
3           7 gigawatts to 15 gigawatts. Thank you.

4           LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Klaus.

5           Our next speaker is Ginger Schroder.  
6           Ginger.

7           GINGER SCHRODER: Good morning. Can you  
8           hear me?

9           LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Ginger.

10          GINGER SCHRODER: Great. Great.

11          I'm a member of the Cattaraugus County  
12          Legislature -- and I think I'm getting  
13          double-feedback here. Hold on.

14          Okay. Is that better?

15          LINDSAY KRYZAK: Would you speak up a  
16          little bit?

17          GINGER SCHRODER: Yes.

18          LINDSAY KRYZAK: Oh, that's much better.

19          GINGER SCHRODER: Okay. Great.

20          LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you.

21          GINGER SCHRODER: Thank you. So, I'm a  
22          member of the Cattaraugus County Legislature. I  
23          represent approximately 77,000 Upstate Rural New  
24          Yorkers.

25          As you probably know, we get 95 percent of

1           our power here already from clean hydro. We have  
2           all the clean power we need, yet, my constituents  
3           feel that we are being disproportionately  
4           detrimented by wind and solar projects, and that  
5           seems to be all in the name of trying to get power  
6           from here, Upstate New York, to Downstate New  
7           York, where it's really needed and where they  
8           don't have any clean power whatsoever.

9           So, there's a sense that Upstate is being  
10          colonized by Downstate New York. Our (inaudible)  
11          sheds are being compromised; our natural resources  
12          are being destroyed. We have exposure to  
13          infrasound from the wind projects, shadow flicker.  
14          We have a significant property value decline.

15          And the sense of my constituents is that  
16          it's really rich for those that live in the cities  
17          to expect my constituents to bear the burden of  
18          that development on a disproportionate basis.  
19          They feel that those who continue to double-down  
20          on wind and solar as being the answer to the  
21          future energy needs of New York are energy  
22          neophytes, just simply parodying mantras of  
23          organizations like the Sierra Club, which have  
24          long ago lost their way and been coopted by  
25          developers. And that is certainly no secret if

1           you look at the Board of Directors of the Sierra  
2           Club. They no longer stand for the things they  
3           used to stand for.

4           The State's irrational pursuit of excessive  
5           wind and solar energy generation has led to really  
6           disastrous environmental consequences, and it's  
7           only increased our reliance on fossil fuels. And  
8           unfortunately, I think NYPA is disproportionately  
9           and disappointingly following in that path.

10          Our sense is the continued investment in  
11          wind and solar to the exclusion of reliable  
12          baseload, load following, and dispatchable  
13          low-carbon sources such as nuclear, hydropower,  
14          and geothermal will not change this trend, and all  
15          renewables electrical grid is inherently stable,  
16          it cannot provide reliable power, and it will  
17          substantially increase the cost of power for both  
18          taxpayers and ratepayers.

19          And for those who say it's the least  
20          expensive form of energy, I just simply don't know  
21          where that information comes from because  
22          everything that our energy experts have said is  
23          that it's the most expensive form, particularly  
24          when we look at the subsidies that are being paid.

25          I think there's growing evidence that New

1 York's overemphasis on wind and solar generation  
2 is damaging the grid, the environment, and our  
3 economy. And the fact that New York continues to  
4 push this on Upstate New York has led to  
5 significant public unrest and loss of faith in  
6 whether such agencies are serving the public  
7 interest, or whether they're serving something  
8 else.

9 So, I implore NYPA to reject these  
10 unsubstantiated arguments about the benefits of  
11 politically favored energy technologies like wind  
12 and solar, and to invest more in those same very  
13 reliable sources I talked about, which are  
14 nuclear, geothermal, and hydropower, because  
15 there's a role for NYPA in that. And what this  
16 is, is just bad policy, and I'm really, really  
17 disappointed to see it.

18 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Our next speaker is Chloe  
19 Stoddard. Chloe.

20 CHLOE STODDARD: All right. Can you hear  
21 me?

22 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Chloe.

23 CHLOE STODDARD: Okay. Great.

24 I'll keep this brief. I submitted a  
25 written comment as well, but I'm just here out of

1 concern due to the intensifying climate disasters  
2 that we're seeing, including in New York. I'm a  
3 New Yorker in the City, and I just want to  
4 advocate that there needs to be an expansion  
5 beyond the 7 gigawatts of proposed capacity to 15,  
6 because it's just inadequate to meet the goals  
7 that we need to reach.

8 Right now, with the plan, we're only on  
9 track for just 44 percent of renewable energy by  
10 2030, and we need to get to 70 percent by 2030.  
11 Therefore, we must build, at least, 15 gigawatts  
12 to get us back on track. Thank you.

13 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Chloe.

14 Our next speaker is Ann Schneider. Ann.

15 ANN SCHNEIDER: Good morning. Ann  
16 Schneider. I'm a happy and lucky homeowner in  
17 Brooklyn, also a ratepayer and a taxpayer. I'm  
18 intensely proud of our new deal era climate goals,  
19 and I think that this organization is doing a  
20 pretty good job in fulfilling them.

21 I do agree with the Food & Water Watch  
22 people, and the same people, and all of the  
23 environmentalists who have spoken that we need to  
24 do better. The 15 gigawatt goal is the goal that  
25 we need to meet. I have -- July 20-- -- July 2019

1 was when the state -- the -- the people of the  
2 state demanded that New York take a leading role  
3 in mitigating climate change, but it wasn't soon  
4 enough. We suffered three damages -- three  
5 floods, two back-to-back in 2021 -- and had to  
6 spend \$80,000 out of our retirement accounts, and  
7 go into pretty deep and long-term debt in order to  
8 make our house a little bit more climate  
9 resilient.

10 And as some people have eloquently noted --  
11 noted, what's happening in Pakistan and places  
12 like that, is going to come to us. So, the fierce  
13 urgency of now is what I would like to leave you  
14 with.

15 Also, it's a little -- no, it's a lot of  
16 galling to read that this -- NYPA provides energy  
17 discounts to Citibank, Amazon, and Lockheed  
18 Martin. That has got to end. The taxpayers,  
19 ratepayers, and citizens of our great state need  
20 to be foremost in your minds.

21 Thank you very much.

22 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Ann.

23 Our next speaker is Victoria Ronzon.

24 Victoria?

25 We'll come back to Victoria.

1 Our next speaker is Eddie Oquendo. Eddie?

2 We can come back to Eddie.

3 Our next speaker is Manna Jo Greene. Manna  
4 Jo?

5 MANNA JO GREENE: Thank you. Manna Jo  
6 Greene. I am an Ulster County legislator, and I  
7 chair the 70 by 30 Renewable Energy Working Group.

8 I am strongly supportive of NYPA achieving  
9 15 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2030. That's  
10 wind, water, solar, and geothermal.

11 We are -- because of the climate crisis, we  
12 urgently need to transition to a renewable energy  
13 economy with storage and efficiency.

14 Unfortunately, I believe Governor Hochul  
15 has been successfully courted by the nuclear and  
16 fossil fuel industries. Nuclear is not clean  
17 energy, nor is it emission-free, if you look at  
18 the full-life cycle, and it generates nuclear  
19 waste for which -- for which there are no good  
20 storage solutions. It actually exacerbates global  
21 warming, and it also gives off a huge amount of  
22 heat to the air and water. It's the slowest to  
23 implement. It's the most costly. In New York,  
24 we've already -- are paying a \$7.6 billion  
25 subsidy. And instead, we need to be transitioning

1 to renewables with storage and efficiency. And  
2 storage is safe, and there have been a few  
3 excellent webinars recently explaining that.

4 We absolutely need grid -- energy grid  
5 upgrades to accommodate renewable energy, and with  
6 storage and micro-grids that can help balance the  
7 grid.

8 Here, in Ulster County, in New Paltz, we're  
9 working with Central Hudson to develop a  
10 20-gigawatt -- I'm sorry -- 20-megawatt corridor  
11 of renewable energy between the high school and  
12 the landfill. And we could use NYPA's help. We  
13 have reached out to NYPA, and we were told that  
14 they weren't ready. But several of those projects  
15 are municipal, whether it be county government,  
16 town, village, or school district.

17 And so, I -- I wanted to just reinforce the  
18 need for 20 gigawatts -- rather 15 gigawatts by  
19 2030. We've done a lot of planning. We have to  
20 focus on implementation. And we have experts that  
21 both understand the technical aspects and the  
22 financial aspects, and would like to work together  
23 to model this here in Ulster County. And so, I  
24 ask for your help in doing that. Thank you.

25 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Manna Jo.

1 Our next speaker is MW Monahan. MW.

2 We'll come back.

3 Our next speaker is Jonathan Schaff.

4 Jonathan.

5 JONATHAN SCHAFF: Hi, can you hear me?

6 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Jonathan.

7 JONATHAN SCHAFF: Excellent.

8 Yeah, I'm Jonathan Schaff. I live in

9 Brooklyn. And I would like to see NYPA

10 aggressively pursue a minimum of 15 gigawatts of

11 renewable energy build-out by 2030. I would also

12 like to see us take maximum advantage of the

13 federal -- federal tax credit while it remains

14 available.

15 I don't really understand why we need so

16 many rounds of studies for these projects before

17 they even enter the interconnection queue, which

18 itself can take four or five years for projects to

19 get approved. We simply don't have that kind of

20 time.

21 To a previous caller, I -- I'm skeptical of

22 the claim that solar and -- plus storage is not

23 the answer. I strongly believe that it is. Solar

24 and storage is the cheapest way to generate energy

25 that humankind has ever produced. It is far

1 cheaper than nuclear. It's cheaper than gas, on a  
2 lifetime basis, and it's cheaper than coal, which  
3 we still continue to use in our own grid here in  
4 New York State.

5 I think we need to turn our attention to  
6 the rest of the world, who is acting with the  
7 aggressiveness that we need to see here in the  
8 United States.

9 Just a couple of examples: Per Bill  
10 McKibben, in the New Yorker recently, China, in  
11 the month of May alone, this May, installed 93  
12 gigawatts of solar power. That's a gigawatt every  
13 eight hours. So, this idea that 15 is not  
14 achievable here, I think it is.

15 In Australia, they can get approval for  
16 rooftop solar day off through an app that makes  
17 the permitting process way easier. In the United  
18 States, it can take months.

19 And then -- yeah, developing countries,  
20 like Pakistan, which was mentioned, are bypassing  
21 natural gas altogether because they know that  
22 solar is much cheaper. And then you combine it  
23 with battery storage, it's effectively a -- a --  
24 excuse me -- a better solution in pretty much  
25 every possible way.

1 I'll say one more thing: I've read that  
2 the President of NYPA, Justin Driscoll, is a  
3 registered Republican. I have a very difficult  
4 time squaring that with the stated goals of  
5 building publicly-owned power, especially given  
6 what this federal administration is doing to this  
7 country in so many different ways, but  
8 particularly on the renewable energy side. So, I  
9 would love to see him put forth some kind of  
10 statement, whether he still considers himself to  
11 be a Republican or if he's changed his  
12 affiliation, because I do think that matters here  
13 when he, in some ways, is a representative of that  
14 party, and everything they stand for, to the  
15 extent that he still feels that way.

16 So, thank you very much.

17 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Jonathan.

18 Our next speaker is Aliyah Elfar. Aliyah?

19 ALIYAH ELFAR: Hello. Can you hear me?

20 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Hi, we can. Thank you.

21 ALIYAH ELFAR: Hi. My name is Aliyah  
22 Elfar. I'm speaking as a solar developer, a New  
23 York City ratepayer, and generally a concerned  
24 citizen about public health.

25 When I did my degree in sustainable

1 development at Columbia University, which, of  
2 course, focuses on city issues, we learned about  
3 -- one thing in particular: Emissions from the  
4 plants, the peaker plants, that operate around New  
5 York City, are incredibly detrimental for  
6 communities. And just a small amount of emissions  
7 can have really high impacts on local communities  
8 because that pollution often lingers.

9 When there is a toll on -- I can't remember  
10 which bridge it is, but it's the one that connects  
11 from Manhattan to the South Bronx, the idling  
12 trucks on those -- on just that one bridge produce  
13 enough emissions to lower the birth weights of  
14 babies in the South Bronx by -- by half a pound,  
15 which is actually like -- pretty much an awful  
16 indicator of public health.

17 And if that's what we can do with one  
18 idling bridge, imagine what all of the peaker  
19 plants, which by law, New York is required to shut  
20 down by 2030, and has no real plan to do so.  
21 Like, that's -- that's -- that's a disaster.

22 And so we -- I really commend NYPA on  
23 increasing the gigawatts -- like, plan for  
24 capacity because, of course, we do need as much  
25 capacity as possible, but I would say that we need

1 to go even further and build out all 15 gigawatts.  
2 Publicly-owned renewables are under attack right  
3 now from private equity. And the types of  
4 companies, like Lockheed Martin and Citibank, that  
5 want those discounts and are drawing the money and  
6 pressuring the Governor to oppose these  
7 half-measures, is just not in the best interest of  
8 ordinary New Yorkers.

9 Additionally, Con Edison approved an  
10 11-percent average rate hike. And as a solar  
11 developer, I know that residential customers tend  
12 to have a higher burden individually than like  
13 small businesses and larger industrial plants,  
14 when there's rate hikes because, of course, a -- a  
15 15-percent rate hike on a family afford -- making  
16 like \$50,000, like that -- like that's obviously  
17 going to affect them more than, let's say, these  
18 big companies who are drawing the big discounts  
19 because they have the money to lobby our  
20 government.

21 So, to kind of wrap up my comments: I just  
22 want to say that we absolutely need to increase  
23 that planned capacity. NYPA can do it. And I --  
24 and the other comments before me have demonstrated  
25 why.

1           Additionally, 25,000 green union jobs would  
2           be created through the expanded capacity, which  
3           would bolster the -- the economy, and especially  
4           the green economy that's been devastated by the  
5           decimation of federal tax credits for renewables.  
6           And that's my time.

7           Thank you so much.

8           LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Aliyah.

9           Our next speaker is MW Monahan. MW, I  
10          think we have you back?

11          Okay. We're going to move to the next  
12          speaker, who is Bedford Grisley. Bedford?

13          We'll come back to Bedford.

14          Our next speaker is Gabriel Hetland.  
15          Gabriel?

16          GABRIEL HETLAND: Hi, I'm Gabriel Hetland.  
17          I'm a professor of Latin American Studies and  
18          Sociology at SUNY, Albany, where I research and  
19          teach about climate change and renewable energy.

20          And I want to say two things to NYPA today:  
21          First, thank you; and second, do more.

22          So, the thank you is for the work that  
23          you've done so far to bring renewable energy to  
24          New York State, and particularly for the latest  
25          efforts you've made to double NYPA's commitment to

1 7 gigawatts, but, as you well know, this is not  
2 enough.

3 Evidence shows that to meet the climate  
4 goals that are required by New York State law,  
5 NYPA must commit to more, specifically to at least  
6 15 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2030. This  
7 commitment is particularly important in light of  
8 our federal government's complete abdication of  
9 its responsibility and its outright climate  
10 denial.

11 And this is something I felt firsthand.  
12 This year, I was selected for a Fulbright U.S.  
13 Scholar Award to study climate change in Spain in  
14 the spring. The Trump administration blocked my  
15 award and hundreds of others because of my focus  
16 on climate change. I'll survive, of course, but  
17 our planet will not survive a runaway climate  
18 change. Spain right now is experiencing the worst  
19 wildfires in its history, and the impacts of  
20 runaway climate change are, of course, visible  
21 everywhere, including in New York State.

22 NYPA's actions are being watched in our  
23 state, in our country, and across the world.  
24 There's reports that South Korea is actually  
25 trying to do its own version of the Build Public

1 Renewables Act, which is wonderful. So, NYPA has  
2 an opportunity to show the world that New York  
3 state can lead and rapidly moving towards  
4 renewable energy and doing so in a way that is  
5 pro-labor and equitable, and fights the injustices  
6 that are baked into our society.

7 But this can only happen if NYPA truly  
8 meets the moment. You can and must do more, but  
9 you have to step up and build 15 gigawatts by  
10 2030.

11 Thank you very much.

12 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Gabriel.

13 Our next speaker is Harrison  
14 Carpenter-Neuhaus. Harrison?

15 HARRISON CARPENTER-NEUHAUS: Hi there.

16 Are you able to hear me?

17 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We are. Thank you.

18 HARRISON CARPENTER-NEUHAUS: Hey, thanks so  
19 much.

20 My name is Harrison. I live in East  
21 Harlem, actually, right over the river from Mott  
22 Haven and South Bronx, where two of NYPA's peaker  
23 plants are sited. As you may know, that's a  
24 neighborhood where asthma rates are over eight  
25 times the national average. And obviously, that

1 pollution blows over to my community as well.

2 I think it goes to show that the scale of  
3 the climate crisis is not just about far future  
4 impacts. New Yorkers are already choking on the  
5 same fossil fuels that are heating the planet, and  
6 millions more are feeling the impacts with this  
7 year's heat waves and flooding that we fear and  
8 know are only going to get worse from here.

9 Obviously, those aren't the only facets of  
10 the crisis that New Yorkers are facing from the  
11 status quo. We also know peaker plants are among  
12 the most expensive forms of energy on our grid.  
13 And with New York, especially downstate, facing  
14 massive growth in energy demand, we're headed for  
15 a disaster.

16 Now, without building more renewable  
17 energy, we're on track for an energy system that  
18 is less reliable, more expensive, as customers  
19 compete for less energy, and continues to burn  
20 fossil fuels that are polluting our lungs and the  
21 planet alike.

22 NYPA's role in solving the crisis cannot be  
23 understated. In fact, I think NYPA is the only  
24 body that's capable of delivering the kind of  
25 change we need. The increase from 3 gigawatts to

1           7 gigawatts in NYPA's plans was incredibly  
2           heartening to see. And while the PSC's rejection  
3           of the Clean Path transmission lines' priority  
4           status was incredibly disappointing, it was great  
5           to see NYPA's ambition to scale up renewable  
6           transmission infrastructure.

7           I think this is a really promising  
8           direction, but -- but as some of the folks who  
9           have preceded me have said, we still need much  
10          more. New York's climate mandates are not just  
11          legally binding; they are achievable, but we're  
12          going to need at least 15 gigawatts of NYPA  
13          renewables to make it happen, including building  
14          much more downstate.

15          We know this is achievable with NYPA's  
16          bonding capabilities, and we need NYPA to go the  
17          full distance to live up to the law.

18          As folks have already mentioned, this is  
19          going to bring so many benefits. We can retire  
20          those peaker plants. We can create tens of  
21          thousands of good union jobs. We can make our  
22          energy grid more reliable. We can lower energy  
23          bills for New Yorkers, not just by adding new  
24          capacity, but also through the REACH program at a  
25          moment when utilities like Con Ed here in the City

1 are raising our rates by double digits.

2 Now, I -- I also just want to end by saying  
3 I know you're hearing this demand and a lot of  
4 pressure today, and I want to be clear that this  
5 isn't going away because this is what New Yorkers  
6 need, but I also want to stress that New Yorkers  
7 are behind you on this. If NYPA needs more  
8 pressure on the state, on the PSC, on NYSERDA, on  
9 any other state bodies, there is a massive  
10 movement of New Yorkers that will turn up the  
11 pressure.

12 If NYPA needs more funds from the  
13 legislature or the Governor, we're ready to flood  
14 the phones. We're not going to stop demanding  
15 what we need, and what we need is 15 gigawatts of  
16 public renewables. So, please keep up the good  
17 work. Thank you.

18 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Harrison.

19 This concludes our list of registered  
20 speakers. There are a few individuals we'll  
21 return to in a few moments, but for those of you  
22 who have joined the Zoom and have not  
23 preregistered to speak, if you now have comments  
24 to submit, please raise your hand, and we'll call  
25 on you.

1           If anyone is watching today who did not  
2 register to speak and feels so moved, you can  
3 still sign up on our public hearing page. Go to  
4 [www.nypa.gov/renewables](http://www.nypa.gov/renewables).

5           Our next speaker is Nathaniel Granor.  
6 Nathaniel?

7           NATHANIEL GRANOR: Hi there. Can you hear  
8 me?

9           LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thank you.

10          NATHANIEL GRANOR: Wonderful.

11          Hello. I am a resident of Brooklyn. I'm a  
12 ratepayer/taxpayer. And I would just echo a lot  
13 of the comments we've heard from the previous  
14 speakers. I am so glad to see the extra work  
15 being done to increase our target from 3 gigawatts  
16 to 7, but 7 is not enough.

17          This is a moment of an incredibly historic  
18 opportunity as we look around the world to see  
19 what is being done with the rollout of solar,  
20 wind, and especially battery energy storage. The  
21 costs of battery storage are plummeting, and we  
22 have to take that into account as we plan ahead  
23 for our future.

24          Batteries represent an incredible  
25 opportunity for downstate, where we know we have

1 great energy demand. Building transmission is  
2 hard, so distributing batteries around the  
3 downstate area is one incredible way to address  
4 that challenge, especially as those costs plummet,  
5 helping to make solar plus energy storage the  
6 cheapest way to get new energy online.

7 Batteries also present an opportunity to  
8 replace peaker plants because they are  
9 dispatchable; they can be used when we need them.  
10 And for all of the reasons we know, the law  
11 requires us to turn off those peaker plants.

12 So, I am thrilled to see the increasing  
13 ambition of NYPA, and I want to see that ambition  
14 continue to increase. We need to lead. This is a  
15 historic moment where we can show ourselves, our  
16 state, our country, and the world what can be  
17 done. Thank you very much.

18 MS. LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Nathaniel.

19 Our next speaker is Mimi Bluestone. Mimi?

20 MIMI BLUESTONE: Hi. Can you hear me now?

21 MS. LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Mimi.

22 MIMI BLUESTONE: Thank you very much.

23 Thanks for the opportunity to speak.

24 I, again, want to echo a lot of what's  
25 already been said. We're in an incredible crisis.

1 I don't think the gravity of it has registered  
2 with most people, but I am an educator. I live in  
3 Brooklyn. I will not forget what happened during  
4 Superstorm Sandy, which was not a hurricane; it  
5 was a superstorm when it made landfall.

6 My school lost one of its beloved graduates  
7 to this storm, in addition to the horrific damage  
8 done to the homes of many staff and students'  
9 families. But this loss of life was -- was  
10 horrific.

11 I'm really glad to see that NYPA has moved  
12 forward with 7 gigawatts. It's certainly a major  
13 step in the right direction, and I want to applaud  
14 that, but it's nowhere near enough, as other  
15 people have said. We do need to go to 15  
16 gigawatts, and we can go to 15 gigawatts.

17 We need more of these projects downstate in  
18 the City, where -- where renewables can not only  
19 help our climate and help our wallets, but can  
20 also reduce the terrible pollution that we suffer  
21 from in the City, and the very high asthma rates.  
22 I saw this with my students, many -- many of whom  
23 lost really significant chunks of time in class  
24 because they were home due to respiratory illness.  
25 This is something that would really help if we

1           could have more of these projects downstate.

2                   And also, we need -- we need NYPA to move  
3           ASAP to closing the peaker plants, which  
4           contribute to these high asthma rates and high  
5           rates of respiratory illness.

6                   So, the crisis is real. Our country is  
7           moving in the wrong direction overall. New York  
8           is making an attempt to move in the right  
9           direction, but can do so much more. We are being  
10          left behind by the rest of the world, which is  
11          moving rapidly toward renewables. Renewables are  
12          the most affordable energy on the planet.

13                   And so, again, I appreciate the steps NYPA  
14          has taken to expand its ambition, and I urge NYPA  
15          to do more. We need 15 gigs.

16                   Thank you so much.

17                   LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Mimi.

18                   Our next speaker is Michelle Quinn.

19                   Michelle?

20                   MICHELLE QUINN: Hello. Can you hear me?

21                   LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Michelle.

22                   MICHELLE QUINN: Hi. Thank you.

23                   I oppose any initiative by NYPA to increase  
24          the capacity of renewable energy sources. We're  
25          not reducing emissions with offshore wind. It

1 states -- it states this in Vineyard's  
2 Environmental Impact Statement.

3 The exper- -- the experimental, expensive,  
4 dangerous -- dangerous lithium-ion battery energy  
5 storage does not reduce emissions either.  
6 Governor Hochul and the lobbyists need to stop the  
7 narrative that battery storage is safe and  
8 cheaper.

9 Governor Hochul allowed Equinor to  
10 rebuild -- to rebid their power contract to three  
11 times the increase in rates for what we're  
12 currently paying. Battery storage costs are in  
13 the millions; again, passed on to ratepayers.

14 Solar is, quote, cheaper because of the tax  
15 dollars funneled back to other taxpayers as  
16 subsidies. Our utilities are now raising rates  
17 because of the Climate Change Superfund Act,  
18 charging fossil fuel companies \$75 billion, again,  
19 passed on to ratepayers.

20 Residents across New York State have  
21 reached out to their elected officials for  
22 moratoriums and bans on lithium battery energy  
23 storage systems because we don't want to be the  
24 next class action lawsuit like the residents of  
25 North Landing.

1           At a meeting in Staten Island, New York, a  
2           representative of Nine- -- a representative of  
3           NineDot, another battery developer, stated he  
4           would not buy a home near a battery storage  
5           system.

6           Battery storage is an unsafe technology, no  
7           proven way to extinguish the fires, health and  
8           environmental risks, and a false sense of safety.  
9           Better technology exists, and we should not be  
10          rushing to first or second-generation technology  
11          when the future is uncertain. This is why many  
12          fire departments across New York State are in  
13          opposition to these BESS bombs.

14          The mandates in the CLCPA are for the  
15          intermittent expense of experimental offshore wind  
16          that will benefit foreign oil and gas companies  
17          like Equinor and are -- who are still exploring  
18          for and using gas and oil.

19          True climate solutions must benefit, not  
20          harm our communities, and national environment.  
21          Thank you.

22                 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Michelle.

23                 Our next speaker is Nancy Romer. Nancy?

24                 NANCY ROMER: Am I unmuted now?

25                 LINDSAY KRYZAK: You are. We can hear you.

1 Thanks, Nancy.

2 NANCY ROMER: Thank you very much.

3 So, my name is Nancy Romer. I am a  
4 Professor Emerita from Brooklyn College, CUNY.  
5 And I'm on the Executive Council of the  
6 Professional Staff Congress of CUNY, our Faculty  
7 and Staff Union. I'm also Co-Chair of our  
8 Environmental Justice Working Group. And I very  
9 much appreciate the opportunity to speak with you  
10 today.

11 I -- I -- first, I want to thank NYPA, and  
12 I want to thank Governor Hochul, for beginning the  
13 process of decarbonizing CUNY. And of course,  
14 SUNY and the rest of the public buildings, but my  
15 focus is going to be on CUNY today.

16 But it's just a very small start. We know  
17 that our buildings are spewing carbon, and we need  
18 to change that. Many of our campuses are in  
19 low-income communities that have already been  
20 harmed by environmental problems. And we -- we  
21 really need to remediate our buildings and provide  
22 solar, wind, geothermal energy. I'm hoping that  
23 we will not invest in nuclear energy.

24 And I see that you're looking for a --  
25 another administrator for nuclear, but not for

1 buildings. NYPA has this great capacity to  
2 transform our buildings, and that's what we should  
3 be doing: Spending the NYPA time, energy, and  
4 resources on the buildings.

5 Okay. I want to also thank NYPA for  
6 increasing your vision to 7 gigawatts. I would  
7 like to see that doubled. The need is enormous.  
8 We know we cannot rely on the federal government  
9 for anything, and the state needs to show that --  
10 that we can move forward in the climate crisis and  
11 provide very good jobs.

12 As a labor union activist, I know that the  
13 construction of more renewable energy will mean  
14 good union jobs in New York State. It's an  
15 economic development feature of NYPA that would --  
16 it would be so welcome.

17 I -- I also want to say that if we can  
18 decrease the amount of fossil fuels that we're  
19 using, we can increase the amount of renewable  
20 energy that we're using, we can shut down those  
21 peaker plants. When I go around to different CUNY  
22 campuses, I see in -- in the lower-income  
23 communities these massive peaker plants, and we  
24 know that they're spewing out the worst pollution  
25 possible and harming the health of -- of New

1           Yorkers.

2                   The last thing I want to say is I'm glad to  
3           see that there's an increase in the issuing of  
4           bonds, but I would like to see that doubled from 1  
5           billion to 2 billion. We need to have renewable  
6           energy, that is our answer, through bonds that all  
7           the -- the -- the pension funds will want to buy.

8                   Thank you.

9                   I'm not hearing -- I'm -- I'm not hearing  
10          you anymore.

11                  LINDSAY KRYZAK: Oh, thank you, Nancy. I'm  
12          sorry about that.

13                  Our next speaker is Charlotte Munn-Wood.  
14          Charlotte?

15                  CHARLOTTE MUNN-WOOD: Hello? Can you hear  
16          me?

17                  LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks,  
18          Charlotte.

19                  CHARLOTTE MUNN-WOOD: Great.

20                  Thank you for -- thank you for giving me  
21          the time to speak.

22                  So, I -- I have lived in New York City for  
23          a number of years, solely in Uptown Manhattan, in  
24          Morningside Heights, and -- and Sugar Hill,  
25          Harlem, and Washington Heights. And the entire

1 time I've been across the bridge from the South  
2 Bronx, which, as many of the other speakers have  
3 mentioned, is home to some of the -- the worst air  
4 pollution in the country, in part because of the  
5 -- in part because of the peaker plants.

6 And I am here today as a concerned citizen,  
7 both of New York City, of the state, and of the  
8 world at large, to encourage NYPA to not be  
9 lagging behind the Trump administration on  
10 investing in renewable resources and sources of  
11 energy. We need to have a plan in place to fully  
12 commit to 15 gigawatts of renewables -- of  
13 renewables by the year 2030.

14 And I urge NYPA to not drag your feet on  
15 this because it's -- it's everybody in this City  
16 and in this country who will benefit from -- from  
17 New York and its public institutions leading the  
18 way. You have a moral and legal obligation to  
19 stand up for the residents of the state.

20 Thank you very much.

21 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Charlotte.

22 This concludes our list of registered  
23 speakers and additional speakers from our Zoom  
24 platform, and additional inquiries to our speaking  
25 request form online.

1           We have two speakers who have asked to  
2 speak after 11:30. Chris and I will take a brief  
3 break, but we will leave the floor open, and we'll  
4 resume at 11:30 to make sure we hear from those  
5 who have registered.

6           If you or anyone else would like to speak  
7 today, or at tomorrow's hearing, you can still go  
8 online to [www.nypa.gov/renewables](http://www.nypa.gov/renewables), and follow the  
9 links to the public comment section to register.  
10 Thank you.

11           (Brief recess.)

12  
13           LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thanks, everyone, for  
14 joining.

15           We have concluded our list of registered  
16 speakers today. We have two who will speak in the  
17 coming minutes, but if anyone is joining and would  
18 like to speak at today's hearing, you can still go  
19 online and do so. Go to [www.nypa.gov/renewables](http://www.nypa.gov/renewables).

20           If anyone is on the Zoom currently and did  
21 not have a chance to speak, please raise your  
22 hand, and we will call on you as well.

23           Our next speaker is MW Monahan. MW?

24           Just another minute, everyone. We're  
25 checking on MW, who did register to speak. Thank

1           you.

2                   Thank you everyone for your patience. It  
3           appears two of our speakers have left the Zoom.  
4           We'll continue trying to reach out to them. And  
5           again, if you or anyone you know is trying to  
6           speak today, please register online for the Zoom,  
7           or if you are already in the room, raise your hand  
8           and we will call on you.

9                   We will remain in the room until 12  
10          o'clock. We'll continue to update and refresh to  
11          ensure that we're seeing any speakers who register  
12          today.

13                   If you are still interested in speaking  
14          tomorrow, you can sign up for tomorrow's hearing.  
15          Again, that is on August 20th. Wednesday, August  
16          20th, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. thank you.

17                   (Brief recess.)

18                   LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you again to  
19          everyone who spoke today. We have concluded our  
20          list of registered speakers for the day, and the  
21          list of those who signed up as proceedings were  
22          occurring. If anyone would like to speak on our  
23          public hearing tomorrow, which is on Wednesday,  
24          August 20th, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. I'll  
25          repeat that it is an evening session tomorrow.

1                   You can sign up on our website at  
2                   www.nypa.gov/renewables and register to speak at  
3                   the Wednesday session.

4                   Today's session. Again, I want to thank  
5                   everyone who spoke today. Your comments will be  
6                   entered into the record and be shared with the  
7                   plan on nypa.gov. Thank you.

8                   (Thereupon, at 12:00 p.m., this public  
9                   hearing was adjourned.)

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CERTIFICATE of REPORTER

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I, Jackie Mentecky, Court Reporter, State of Florida at Large, certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing proceedings and that the transcript, page 1 through 69, is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

Dated this 19th day of August, 2025.

/s/ Jackie Mentecky

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Jackie Mentecky  
Court Stenographer

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NYPA RENEWABLES DRAFT UPDATED STRATEGIC PLAN

PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

6:00 p.m. - 8:27 p.m.

On behalf of NYPA:

LINDSAY KRYZAK

CHRISTOPHER HUTSON:

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25

1                   CHRISTOPHER HUTSON: Good evening. Thank  
2 you for joining us.

3                   My name is Chris Hutson, and I am the  
4 Senior Vice President for NYPA development. A  
5 little background about myself is that I started  
6 with NYPA here back in March. I was previously  
7 worked for an EPC provider for the last 15 years  
8 in renewables, and in other power generation, as  
9 well as started in the Navy Nuclear program to  
10 start my career.

11                  We are here because NYPA issued a draft of  
12 its Updated Renewables Strategic Plan on July  
13 29th, and we want to hear your feedback. The  
14 Power Authority committed to adding new projects  
15 to its inaugural plan, and that's exactly what it  
16 did, and that's what we're here to discuss.

17                  We scheduled two virtual public hearings to  
18 solicit input from the public, from all of you.  
19 Today is the second, and we will be completing  
20 this tonight.

21                  If someone you know is unable to attend  
22 today's session in person, please let them know  
23 NYPA is accepting written comments online through  
24 September 12th.

25                  Today is a listening session. We are here

1 to hear from you, so after a brief presentation,  
2 we will invite those who signed up to speak to  
3 share their public comments. They will be  
4 transcribed and entered into the public record as  
5 official comments. So, let's begin.

6 The next slide.

7 I imagine most of you are familiar with who  
8 we are at NYPA, but I'll share a bit of background  
9 for those of you who are just starting to follow  
10 us on our renewables journey.

11 The New York Power Authority, or NYPA, is  
12 the largest state public power organization in the  
13 nation. We operate 17 generating facilities,  
14 generating about a quarter of the state's  
15 electricity. We also own, operate, and maintain  
16 more than 1550 circuit miles of transmission  
17 lines, approximately one-third of the state's  
18 high-voltage transmission grid.

19 In addition to operating some of the  
20 state's largest power projects, we provide clean  
21 energy and energy-efficiency solutions to state  
22 and local municipalities, public agencies, and  
23 authorities.

24 We also oversee a variety of economic  
25 development programs, and are the stewards of the

1 state's canal system, that is celebrating its  
2 Bicentennial year this year.

3 Recently, Governor Hochul directed us to  
4 build one gigawatt of nuclear energy. That work  
5 stream is still in the very early stages of  
6 development, but it is an opportunity we're  
7 excited about.

8 While the nuclear project will also support  
9 the development of an emissions-free, reliable,  
10 and resilient electric grid, it is separate and  
11 apart from our efforts to build new renewable  
12 projects throughout the state. That effort is  
13 what we're here to talk about today.

14 And now I'll describe our Draft Updated  
15 Strategic Plan in some more detail.

16 The next slide.

17 These three charts illustrate the breakdown  
18 of our renewable projects and opportunities as  
19 part of the Strategic Plan. The first tranche of  
20 opportunities was approved in January and  
21 consisted of 37 projects, representing more than  
22 3,000 megawatts of capacity.

23 The center graphic represents all the new  
24 renewable opportunities we've identified,  
25 including nearly 800 megawatts of land-based wind

1 and a substantial amount of energy storage  
2 projects, providing a more diversified portfolio.

3 The vast majority of those storage assets,  
4 around 150, are part of three portfolio projects  
5 and are primarily located in New York City in  
6 Westchester County.

7 The final graphic represents the total mix  
8 of projects and portfolios that are included in  
9 this draft of the Updated Strategic Plan.

10 You'll note that the cumulative represents  
11 nearly 7 gigawatts of potential new capacity.  
12 We're proud of the diversity of this portfolio,  
13 and I'll color this with a little more detail and  
14 specificity.

15 The next slide.

16 Now, it's no secret that recent federal  
17 actions aimed to curb the advancement of wind and  
18 solar projects will impact the market, our  
19 co-developers, and our identified renewable  
20 opportunities.

21 Generally speaking, the federal actions  
22 laid out in H.R. 1, also known as the one Big  
23 Beautiful Bill, are ending federal income tax  
24 credits for wind and solar projects.

25 However, I want to make it clear that in

1           spite of all of these challenges and incoming  
2           constraints, we are moving forward, honoring our  
3           commitments to build a portfolio of clean energy  
4           projects that will strengthen our state's grid  
5           with diversified generation resources.

6           With those new federal challenges in mind,  
7           I'll briefly touch on some of our risk mitigation  
8           strategies: We want to safe harbor or lock in tax  
9           credits for as many projects as possible, with  
10          limited time before eligibility for the credits to  
11          expire.

12          This slide identifies three lenses we will  
13          use to identify which projects to prioritize first  
14          in addition to our project evaluation criteria set  
15          forth in the original Strategic Plan: First,  
16          where they stand in their associated permitting  
17          processes, depending on the projects, that could  
18          relate to obtaining siting approval through the  
19          office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric  
20          Transmission, ORES, or the State Environmental  
21          Quality Review Act, SEQRA process.

22          We are closely following whether projects  
23          have received state environmental reviews and  
24          permits. We are also monitoring the availability  
25          of federal permits, including new requirements,

1 increased scrutiny, and reduced staff for  
2 reviewing permitting applications; if they are,  
3 they may be subject to unpredictable delays.

4 Two, we are also looking at projects that  
5 have, or are competitive enough to secure, an  
6 offtake agreement for their output, such as a  
7 Renewable Energy Credit REC agreement with NYSERDA  
8 under the upcoming solicitation or a power  
9 purchase agreement with a customer that NYPA has  
10 the authority to sell power and/or RECs to. That  
11 is a big component of a project's economic  
12 viability.

13 And finally, we are examining projects with  
14 well-established supply chains; lead times for  
15 major equipment on utility-scale projects, such as  
16 high-voltage transformers, can be multiple years.  
17 Every developer in the country right now is  
18 seeking to rapidly procure equipment and safe  
19 harbor their projects with the addition of new tax  
20 credit deadlines.

21 So, there is expected to be a supply and  
22 demand imbalance for resources. This means that  
23 it will be critical to move fast and work with  
24 developers who have strong existing supply chain  
25 relationships.

1                   The next slide.

2                   This map shows where all the projects and  
3 portfolios, included in the Draft of the Updated  
4 Strategic Plan, are located. The zoomed-in figure  
5 on the right illustrates the potential storage  
6 capacity associated with the three portfolios in  
7 the second tranche across the City's outer  
8 boroughs and in Westchester County.

9                   There are currently more than 350 renewable  
10 generation projects in the NYISO Interconnection  
11 Queue and Cluster Study. More than 40 of those  
12 projects are included in our plan. We have the  
13 expertise and drive to move these projects along.

14                  Additionally, the draft plan contains 13  
15 projects with executed NYSERDA Tier 1 REC  
16 agreements.

17                  The next slide.

18                  I now would like to take a minute to  
19 showcase the tremendous progress we've made  
20 advancing these projects on both sides of the  
21 house, self-developed and co-developed. To do so,  
22 it's necessary to split the two buckets of  
23 projects into separate charts illustrating  
24 different parameters, as the work by our teams is  
25 fundamentally different.

1           For self-developed projects, we start from  
2 scratch. That begins with project-lead vetting  
3 through pre-feasibility assessment before  
4 progressing to more complex full feasibility  
5 studies that require visits to the site. After  
6 that, projects advance to development by preparing  
7 and submitting interconnection and permitting  
8 applications.

9           To date, about 130 megawatts of proposed  
10 projects on greenfield pipelines have advanced  
11 from feasibility studies into the early stages of  
12 active development.

13           For co-developed projects, evaluating and  
14 advancing these opportunities is more of a  
15 partnership. Our teams are constantly digging  
16 through data and working with internal and  
17 external subject matter experts to determine each  
18 project's viability. That entails more than just  
19 determining associated revenues that can be  
20 generated. We also explore the benefits that  
21 could be delivered to the grid and to communities  
22 across the state.

23           The next slide.

24           Something our team is really proud of is  
25 the Renewable Energy Access and Community Help, or

1 REACH program, which attributes a portion of the  
2 project's revenue towards reducing utility bills  
3 for low-income households within disadvantaged  
4 communities across the state.

5 NYPA announced its first REACH project back  
6 in April in Albany, alongside Mayor Kathy Sheehan  
7 and DEC Commissioner Amanda Lefton. That project  
8 will be a 1.5 megawatt solar project at a capped  
9 landfill in North Albany/Shaker Park.

10 As a reminder, our first tranche had four  
11 projects designated to be developed under the  
12 REACH program, representing more than 100  
13 megawatts, two of which have progressed into  
14 active developments so far.

15 With this new tranche, all the 152  
16 distributed-scale solar storage systems within the  
17 three project portfolios we've added will be  
18 explored for development under REACH.

19 The next slide.

20 Now, I'll end my introduction today with a  
21 snapshot of what's to come next: The public  
22 comment period ends September 12th, so I'll ask  
23 everyone here who has not done so already to  
24 submit their comments to the public comment portal  
25 on our website.

1           Tonight's speakers' comments will be  
2 recorded, transcribed, and added to the record.  
3 Your comments submitted or spoken at our two  
4 virtual public hearings will be compiled and  
5 reviewed by my team and our legal team, and will  
6 be shared with the NYPA Board of Trustees and  
7 executive leadership. They will also be available  
8 publicly on our website.

9           In December, our Board will vote to approve  
10 NYPA's Updated Strategic Plan. Additional  
11 information on that timing and on the full draft  
12 plan can be found at [nypa.gov/renewables](http://nypa.gov/renewables).

13           As we've discussed, we are aware that there  
14 may be hurdles ahead, but with your support and  
15 the support of our team here at NYPA, we will  
16 continue to do all we can to build a diverse  
17 portfolio of clean energy projects that bolster  
18 our state's electric grid and benefits all New  
19 Yorkers. Thank you.

20           I will now turn the mic over to Lindsay  
21 Kryzak, who will kick off the public comment  
22 portion of our session. Lindsay?

23           LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Chris.

24           I will remind everyone that the law  
25 requires a 30-day public comment period and one

1 public hearing on any update to the Strategic  
2 Plan. We believe in hearing from and engaging  
3 with the public, and it's essential. And we chose  
4 to hold two virtual hearings on this particular  
5 update. The public comment period will also run  
6 for 45 days and conclude on September 12th.

7 This evening, I will call on those who  
8 signed up to speak in the order that you signed  
9 up, and speakers will be given three minutes to  
10 deliver a public comment for the record.

11 We recognize some of you may have longer  
12 comments than others. If you run out of time, you  
13 can submit your full comment on our comment  
14 portal, which is accessible through  
15 [nypa.gov/renewables](http://nypa.gov/renewables).

16 Speakers who do not use their full three  
17 minutes may not give their excess time to others.  
18 We are sticking to the three-minute time limit to  
19 ensure that everyone who wishes to is able to  
20 share their comments in the time allowed.

21 As a reminder, the Power Authority is  
22 transcribing this event, which may be maintained,  
23 used, and disclosed to the extent authorized or  
24 required by applicable law, regulation, or order,  
25 and it may be made available in whole or in part

1 in the public record in accordance with the  
2 agency's rules.

3 Our first speaker this evening is Ron  
4 Kamen. Ron?

5 RON KAMEN: Hello. Can you hear me?

6 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Ron.

7 RON KAMEN: Excellent. Thank you very  
8 much.

9 I will limit my time to three minutes. I  
10 did submit these as written comments as well, so  
11 anything I don't cover now, you guys will have in  
12 hand.

13 I am Ron Kamen. I'm the Program Director  
14 for the Business Council of Westchester's Clean  
15 Energy Action Coalition. Thank you very much for  
16 this opportunity.

17 The Business Council of Westchester is  
18 Westchester County's largest business membership  
19 organization that focuses on economic development  
20 and advocacy. We've been laser-focused on the  
21 changing energy landscape.

22 And last year, in 2024, we formed the Clean  
23 Energy Action Coalition, which now has over 110  
24 members who are leaders in the renewable energy  
25 sector, as well as a host of diverse interests

1 representing construction and development  
2 throughout the county.

3 I would like to start off by commending  
4 NYPA for your impressive capacity, that is  
5 outlined in the update to the Strategic Plan.  
6 When you rolled out the initial plan, you said you  
7 would do more to develop -- support the  
8 development of renewables in New York, and you  
9 did.

10 We support the NYPA Renewables Draft  
11 Updated Strategic Plan, but we would also urge you  
12 to increase that plan because we believe that  
13 you're both on goal and the State desperately  
14 needs your expertise and your support to be able  
15 to reach the climate goals and ensure that we have  
16 a safe, reliable, and affordable grid.

17 So, we're asking that you consider also  
18 increasing that goal to 15 gigawatts, which if it  
19 was all solar, it would be about 18,000  
20 gigawatt-hours, and compare that to the 25,000  
21 gigawatt-hours of hydro that you currently have as  
22 renewables, it would represent a tremendous  
23 increase in renewable capacity in the State, and  
24 be able to help us avoid the cost increases and  
25 blackouts and brownouts that we're now on the

1           verge of happening, especially with extreme  
2           weather events.

3                        NYPA has an impressive legacy of delivering  
4           reliable and affordable power to New York. The  
5           cheapest power of electricity in the State is NYPA  
6           power from the renewable energy you guys invested  
7           in last century.

8                        Hydroelectricity, when the water flows, we  
9           get cheap electric because you guys own the  
10          infrastructure, maintain the infrastructure, and  
11          deliver that electricity. And the same is true  
12          for other renewables such as wind and solar,  
13          especially when compared with battery storage.

14                      So, this is incredibly important to New  
15          York State for resiliency purposes, for  
16          affordability purposes, for all the different  
17          reasons. And you guys have proven experience  
18          operating these safe, large-scale energy storage,  
19          as well as solar and other renewable capacity.  
20          And we want to praise you for the REACH program,  
21          which is also helping low-income consumers, as  
22          well as your workforce development efforts, and  
23          your other -- and environmental justice and  
24          decarbonization leadership programs.

25                      As a leader in renewable energy, you guys

1 have consistently demonstrated the foresight and  
2 capability to adapt to the ever-evolving demands  
3 of our time. And the Business Council of  
4 Westchester has no doubt that your strategic  
5 investment in new renewable energy generation  
6 projects will transform our energy infrastructure,  
7 reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and set new  
8 benchworks for an environment.

9 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Ron.

10 Our next speaker is Nivo Rovedo. Nivo?

11 NIVO ROVEDO: Thank you for the opportunity  
12 to speak. Can you hear me okay?

13 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thank you.

14 NIVO ROVEDO: Okay. Hello. My name is  
15 Nivo Rovedo, and I live in the Hudson Valley of  
16 New York, and I am a member of the Sierra Club.

17 I want to commend New York Power Authority  
18 on its Updated Renewable Energy Plan. I wholly  
19 support the proposed plan. Its goal of adding 7  
20 gigawatts of wind, solar, and storage, built in  
21 New York State, is a step forward to creating a  
22 21st-century energy structure, and a welcome  
23 contrast to the federal pullback on supporting  
24 clean, renewable, pollution-free energy.

25 I want future generations, as well as our

1 own, to have a livable world, and this proposal  
2 fits that goal. All our well-being depends upon  
3 moving away from burning fossil fuels to clean  
4 renewable energy. We see the effects of climate  
5 change threatening our well-being all over New  
6 York State, as well as all over the world.

7 China is furiously working towards the  
8 renewable energy goal, and they're taking over the  
9 technology in that space. New York State must  
10 lead in being competitive for all our sakes.

11 Land-based wind and solar-generated power  
12 are the least expensive forms of electricity in  
13 the U.S.A., even without government subsidies.  
14 This makes sense to embrace clean, pollution-free  
15 renewable energy from an economic sense.

16 The cost of gas plants has increased to a  
17 10-year high, and nuclear power is astoundingly  
18 more expensive than solar or wind, as well as  
19 taking much, much longer to bring up.

20 The rest of the world is moving in the  
21 right direction. The writing is on the wall. Our  
22 competitors see it. Let's take part fully in this  
23 revolution and move our energy economy into the  
24 21st century.

25 I applaud NYPA for seeing the future

1           correctly and proposing this plan. Let's get  
2           going. Move away from burning fossil fuels for  
3           all our sakes.

4                     Thanks very much, and keep up the good  
5           work.

6                     LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Nivo.

7                     Our next speaker is Diane Ciurczak. Diane?

8                     DIANE CIURCZAK: Hello. Can you hear me?

9                     LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Diane.

10                    DIANE CIURCZAK: My name's Diane Ciurczak,  
11           and I live in Buffalo, New York. I'm also a  
12           member and a volunteer of the Sierra Club Niagara  
13           Group.

14                    I have three toddler grandchildren, and as  
15           I watch the early effects -- early effects of  
16           climate change and other environmental disasters  
17           already impacting the earth, I'm afraid that the  
18           planet may become uninhabitable during their  
19           lifetimes. I -- I, therefore, wholly support the  
20           increased ambition of the Updated Renewable Energy  
21           plan.

22                    And I approve the idea of the 7 gigawatts  
23           of wind, solar, and storage, but I would like to  
24           see NYPA do more. I had hoped that the -- once  
25           that goal is met, that NYPA will stretch and step

1 forward into our renewable energy future with 15  
2 gigawatts to meet the goals of the CLCPA, so that  
3 I -- so, I request that they move -- you move  
4 beyond in the future.

5 The plan should also greatly expand the  
6 amount of distributed geothermal energy in the  
7 state to generate energy -- energy efficiency, and  
8 reduce energy usage.

9 NYPA can do this by developing distributed  
10 geothermal systems for schools and other large  
11 institutions. It's a way of saving money and  
12 reducing fossil fuel usage at the same time.  
13 Moreover, we should not be allocating any publicly  
14 produced renewable energy to energy-hungry data  
15 centers that are undermining energy grids across  
16 the country.

17 Data centers should be barred from using  
18 fossil fuels, but they should be responsible for  
19 generating their own renewable power.

20 I support the plan to include energy  
21 storage of the state's ongoing work. I support  
22 the proactive steps that NYPA is taking to  
23 accelerate the retirement of small natural gas  
24 plants.

25 Land-based wind and solar-generated power

1 are the least expensive forms of electricity in  
2 the United States, even without government  
3 subsidies, according to Reuters this year.  
4 Renewables make up more than 90 percent of new  
5 power installations worldwide in 20- (technical  
6 difficulty), and 19 percent was wind. The cost of  
7 gas plants, though, has increased to a 10-year  
8 high.

9 Nuclear power is much more expensive than  
10 solar or wind power, and takes much longer to  
11 plan. On top of that, it generates nuclear waste  
12 that has no safe method of disposal. There are  
13 also potential security risks and the risk  
14 (technical difficulty) of accidents from the  
15 distribution of dangerous nuclear materials to  
16 multiple locations.

17 Once again, I would like to support the --  
18 the work that NYPA has done with their ambitious  
19 new --

20 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Diane.

21 DIANE CIURCZAK: -- renewable energy plan

22 --

23 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you.

24 DIANE CIURCZAK: Thank you for the effort.

25 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Our next speaker --

1           thanks, Diane.

2                     Our next speaker is George Nunez. George?

3                     George, I see you on the line, and we will  
4           come back to you.

5                     Our next speaker is Rebecca Curtis-Heald.

6           Rebecca?

7                     REBECCA CURTIS-HEALD: Hello. Can you hear  
8           me?

9                     LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Rebecca.

10                    REBECCA CURTIS-HEALD: Awesome. Thank you.

11                    Good evening, everyone. Thank you for the  
12           time. My name is Becca Curtis-Heald, and I'm a  
13           resident of New York City, and more specifically  
14           of the Rockaways.

15                    Here, in Rockaway Beach today, we're  
16           currently under a flood advisory, and the beaches  
17           are closed due to dangerous conditions from  
18           Hurricane Erin. And as some of our other speakers  
19           have pointed out, this is just the most recent  
20           reminder of the worsening climate crisis alongside  
21           the heat waves and wildfire smoke that have  
22           impacted all of New York City in the past several  
23           weeks.

24                    Aside from being a New Yorker who is  
25           concerned for our future, I spend my weekdays

1 working in public health, so I find it really hard  
2 to ignore the impact of fossil fuel pollution and  
3 fossil fuel infrastructure like peaker plants.

4 For these reasons, I'm here today to call  
5 on NYPA to expand its pipeline of renewable  
6 projects from the current 7 gigawatts to at least  
7 15 gigawatts of renewable energy.

8 I'm also here to ask NYPA to expand its  
9 pipeline downstate and in New York City, where  
10 there are currently there are currently very few  
11 projects cited despite the high-energy demand in  
12 this part of the state.

13 And I want to say that when I talk about 15  
14 gigawatts of renewables, I really want to  
15 emphasize that 15 gigawatts is not a nice-to-have.  
16 This is the minimum that we need in order to  
17 comply with New York State's own laws, including  
18 our target of reaching 70 percent renewables by  
19 2030.

20 New York has passed amazing nation-leading  
21 climate laws like the CLCPA and the Build Public  
22 Renewables Act, but as a New Yorker, I'm deeply  
23 concerned that Governor Hochul seems to be ready  
24 to abandon these goals.

25 And speaking as someone living in the

1 Rockaways, it's completely surreal to me that my  
2 fellow residents of Rockaway are having to spend  
3 their time fighting against a gas pipeline being  
4 expanded in our backyards instead of enjoying the  
5 benefits that the clean energy transition could  
6 bring to us.

7 I also want to emphasize that building 15  
8 gigawatts of renewables is not a sacrifice. This  
9 buildout has the potential to bring 25,000 good  
10 jobs to our communities. It could solve the high  
11 emissions coming from public school buildings by  
12 building up distributed solar in the city at CUNY  
13 campuses and K through 12 schools, while also, you  
14 know, getting us closer to our renewable targets.

15 We could finally bring down the peaker  
16 plants that fill black and brown communities and  
17 the city with toxic emissions. And we can do all  
18 of this while bringing down New Yorkers' energy  
19 bills.

20 I also want to just say that we cannot  
21 continue to use grid reliability as an excuse to  
22 keep relying on polluting and dangerous fossil  
23 fuels while Governor Hochul and NYPA are not  
24 building renewable energy at the pace and scale  
25 that we know that we need.

1           While I was super happy to see 7 gigawatts,  
2           I just want to emphasize, again, this is only a  
3           half measure at this point. And every dollar  
4           spent belonging our dependents on fossil fuels is  
5           an abandonment of the State's responsibility to  
6           safeguard its citizens.

7           Concerns about funding renewables also  
8           bring (inaudible) to me when we see that NYPA is  
9           able to provide large multinational corporations  
10          with major energy discounts, while a third of New  
11          Yorkers can't even afford to pay their electricity  
12          bills. And I just think there's no excuse at all  
13          to not expand our ambition on our renewable  
14          pipeline.

15          So, in closing, I just want to reemphasize  
16          the need for NYPA to act now to significantly  
17          scale up our renewables pipeline to at least 15  
18          gigawatts, and to do so with the urgency that the  
19          climate crisis requires, while establishing clear  
20          timelines for working with communities and  
21          expanding the use of public land to host these  
22          renewable projects. Thank you.

23                   LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Rebecca.

24                   Our next speaker is Jacob Metz-Lerman.

25                   Jacob?

1 JACOB METZ-LERMAN: Hi. Can you hear me?

2 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thank you.

3 JACOB METZ-LERMAN: Hi. So I am here today  
4 to ask NYPA to commit to building at least 15  
5 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2030. One day,  
6 our children and grandchildren will ask us how the  
7 world came to look the way it does. We will tell  
8 them that there were some who did what they could,  
9 and there were others who found every reason to  
10 allow and facilitate the destruction of our  
11 planet.

12 NYPA decision-makers have a choice about  
13 what side of history they want to be on. This is  
14 the moment. There is no excuse that justifies  
15 polluting our skies with deadly levels of carbon.  
16 The world's moral authorities, including its  
17 highest courts, have been clear that allowing this  
18 pollution is a human rights violation, plain and  
19 simple.

20 This means that every ton of carbon that  
21 NYPA allows into the skies is an act of violence  
22 against our children, future generations, working  
23 people all across the world, and even life itself.

24 In fact, according to modern science, the  
25 carbon that NYPA will allow into the skies under

1           this insufficient plan is even more damaging than  
2           its past carbon pollution. This means that NYPA  
3           has a moral obligation to do everything in its  
4           power to build out renewable energy and transition  
5           our energy grid as quickly as is humanly possible.  
6           Even 15 gigawatts is not enough. Justice demands  
7           full decarbonization and nothing less.

8                     There are no more excuses; no  
9           justifications for dragging your feet. You have  
10          the power; you can find the money. This is the  
11          moment to choose what side of history you, NYPA's  
12          decision makers, want to be on.

13                    Do what you can so that you can tell your  
14          children and your grandchildren that you truly did  
15          everything in your power to make this world a  
16          safe, healthy place. That means at least 15  
17          gigawatts now. Thank you.

18                   LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Jacob.

19                    Our next speaker is Jim Wood. Jim?

20                   JIM WOOD: Good evening. Can you hear me?

21                   LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Jim.

22                   JIM WOOD: I'm the Coordinator of the Sodus  
23          Climate Smart Communities Task Force for the last  
24          10 years. Sodus is a small upstate community  
25          sitting on the shore of Lake Ontario in Wayne

1 County.

2 I'm going to talk specifically about the  
3 importance of generating alternative energy in our  
4 sector, and also the tremendous value of keeping  
5 as much of that produced energy within our area.

6 Some of it, of course, will have to go to  
7 places that perhaps have higher needs, but we have  
8 a high need in terms of being a low-resourced and  
9 low-income area.

10 One of our great assets is our land. So,  
11 we have the potential for generating energy  
12 through solar siting in our farms. One of the  
13 things we're finding in conflict is farmer against  
14 farmer.

15 So, my main point that I would like to make  
16 is to encourage NYPA to recognize the preeminence  
17 of individual farmers to determine what they  
18 produce on their own land, and to keep their farms  
19 in their own hands, one of those is to site solar  
20 arrays.

21 My message, therefore, is simple. It's  
22 twofold. It's keep as much of what we can produce  
23 around our -- the area that it's produced, and to  
24 recognize the preeminence of individual farmers to  
25 determine what happens on their land in the

1 generation of alternative energy. Thank you.

2 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Jim.

3 Our next speaker is Christina Kramer.

4 Christina?

5 CHRISTINA KRAMER: Hi. Can you hear me?

6 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks,

7 Christina.

8 CHRISTINA KRAMER: Hi, my name is Christina

9 Kramer, and I'm from Protect Our Coast, Long

10 Island, New York.

11 I have to say I'm really disappointed at  
12 all of the script reading. These so-called  
13 environmental organizations are on the take. They  
14 take money from Equinor. They take money from  
15 these so-called renewable energy sources, and they  
16 lobby our politicians. They make sure that  
17 cooperative politicians get into office, and then  
18 the politicians make sure that those lobbying  
19 associations get money. It's a horrible cycle,  
20 and we can't break it.

21 Normal residents like myself, we don't have  
22 a shot. We don't have lobbying money. All we  
23 have is our passion for our communities. And we  
24 are now the environmentalists. We are now the  
25 conservationists because that ship has sailed. It

1 left the barn.

2 We have read through the environmental  
3 impact statements of these so-called renewable  
4 energy companies, and it's like truth serum. They  
5 tell you about all the destructed -- the  
6 destruction they're going to cause. They tell you  
7 how they're going to hurt your community. And  
8 there's thousands and thousands of pages, so  
9 normal residents can't read through them.

10 These reciters are just doing their jobs.  
11 They're paid lobbyists. We have turbines going in  
12 our ocean, which are -- which you're calling wind  
13 renewable. Wind is renewable, but wind turbines  
14 aren't. They run on fossil fuels, and anybody who  
15 says -- says otherwise either is uneducated or  
16 lying.

17 The infrastructure of these turbines are  
18 battery energy storage systems. Battery energy  
19 storage systems are sensitive, fragile, they go on  
20 fire, they could -- the thermal runaways will  
21 cause hydrofluoric acid in your body. They're  
22 putting the health and safety of the residents as  
23 not a priority when it should be. "Let it burn"  
24 is not a proper safety measure.

25 And let's get started with the high-voltage

1 cables. You want to drop 200 milligauss of high  
2 voltage EMF radiation into our res- --  
3 highly-populated residential communities. And  
4 PROPEL New York is saying that it's safe because  
5 it's state guidelines. The state guidelines were  
6 created in the '70s, and they were never created  
7 for high-voltage cables to be in residential  
8 communities.

9 This whole thing needs to be looked at  
10 again. The state guidelines need to be updated.  
11 We try not to be political, but it's the  
12 self-imposed mandates by the CLCPA, and their  
13 profitable for themselves solutions that's driving  
14 all of this.

15 Why should you ever get to strap ratepayers  
16 with energy costs? And if AI and data centers  
17 need energy, you're damn right, they should  
18 provide their own energy sources at their own  
19 cost, and stop strapping the ratepayers and using  
20 subsidies for an energy source that can't carry  
21 the payload. Thank you.

22 I didn't hear you say thank you.

23 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Christina.

24 Our next speaker is Jennifer Sarafin.

25 Jennifer?

1 JENNIFER SARAFIN: Hi. Can you hear me?

2 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Jennifer.

3 JENNIFER SARAFIN: Can you hear me?

4 Hi. I am blown away listening to this  
5 scripted nonsense. I have never in my life been  
6 so floored by such ridiculousness.

7 First of all, have you -- you're off in  
8 Westchester and these people are talking about  
9 trying to increase the goal? She can't even meet  
10 the goal that's there. It's been all over the  
11 news how the CLCPA goals are not going to be met  
12 because they are so ridiculous. How the  
13 government can't meet the goals that she's already  
14 met because they're so freaking stupid.

15 Okay? And if you go and you talk to  
16 anybody who lives in this area, they are suing  
17 NYPA because their electric bills have gotten so  
18 insane that they can't pay them.

19 What is going on? What is this? This is  
20 such a bunch of crap. People -- we don't need  
21 this. We need all sources of energy in our state.  
22 Look at every other state that is profitable. We  
23 need gas. We need electric. We need hydro.

24 And you know what we need? We need  
25 nuclear. And anybody who knows anything says

1           that. Stop shoving this crap down our throats.  
2           We do not want to be all electric so you can make  
3           money.

4                     And by the way, this bull crap with the  
5           Sierra Club? How much money did Bloomberg put  
6           into that, and did they take, so they can get  
7           somewhere with the government?

8                     I'm sorry. This has to stop. We do not  
9           want to be the next California. You're talking  
10          about stopping brownouts and blackouts? All it is  
11          going to do is increase them.

12                    The wind energy is not reliable. Solar is  
13          -- I mean, it's great, so go ahead. You want to  
14          be solar? Why don't they want to help everybody  
15          and put it on every home in America? But don't  
16          put it in a field and stop crops.

17                    This isn't going to work. It's a  
18          (inaudible). It does not work. And that -- like  
19          Christina said, there's no plan. All they do is  
20          burn up.

21                    What about what happened out in California,  
22          where people had to shelter in place? Let it  
23          burn? No, I'm sorry. That doesn't work for us.  
24          And no, we do not want high-voltage cables under  
25          our feet where our kids are going to get leukemia.

1           Why don't you look at the -- the medical stuff and  
2           all the studies that have been done where kids are  
3           dying from the high-voltage cables?

4           I'm sorry. This does not work for us. And  
5           she's right. All of it is lobbyists that are  
6           trying to make money and get people elected, so  
7           they can get the money kicked back.

8           We have -- we're just people volunteering  
9           our time trying to help our communities. We don't  
10          want this. Nobody wants this, except for the  
11          politicians that are going to get kickbacks from  
12          it.

13          This does not work for our communities, so  
14          she needs to stop her CLCPA and your scripted  
15          class of people saying that they want more.

16          LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Jennifer.

17          I'm so sorry.

18          Our next speaker is Len Luka. Len?

19          LEN LUKA: Am I on mute?

20          LINDSAY KRYZAK: Hi. We can hear you, Len.

21          LEN LUKA: Thank you. Sorry.

22          Yes, I'm Len Luka, and I live in  
23          Binghamton, New York. I'm the Renewables  
24          Coordinator for New Yorkers for Clean Power.

25          I'm reading my statement out of respect for

1 the time for the committee, but no one has told me  
2 what to say, and it's not scripted: As you've  
3 summarized at the outset, the Draft Strategic Plan  
4 identifies 61 clean energy projects, totaling  
5 nearly 7 gigawatts of solar, wind, and storage.  
6 But New York's climate law requires more. We must  
7 reach at least 15 gigawatts of renewables by 2030  
8 to secure a 70 percent clean energy mix. We need  
9 to cut the bills for vulnerable households, and we  
10 need to create 25,000 union jobs.

11 First, the cost of action is far less than  
12 the cost of delay. Stopping at 7 gigawatts means  
13 aging gas peaker plants keep running, polluting  
14 and -- overburdened communities and violating  
15 legal deadlines for closure. It also undercuts  
16 the REACH program, which transforms renewable  
17 revenues into bill credit assistance.

18 At 7 gigawatts, REACH can help only half of  
19 the households that a 15-gigawatt buildout could  
20 support, leaving countless families without  
21 relief.

22 Second, NYPA has a mandated obligation to  
23 address equity and resilience. In its project  
24 commitments, please prioritize community projects  
25 and value tribal partnerships over corporate

1 subsidies.

2 Third, a complete clean energy transition  
3 allows NYPA to decarbonize public schools by  
4 deploying utility-scale and distributed renewables  
5 on campuses, ensuring clean power for K through 12  
6 education, as well as for SUNY and CUNY campuses.

7 I am someone who has worked in higher  
8 education for more than 21 years, and I know the  
9 value of this investment that it has for future  
10 generations.

11 In conclusion, the 15-gigawatt pathway is  
12 not optional. It is what the law, the climate,  
13 and New Yorkers demand. The investment will pay  
14 for itself many times over in healthier air, lower  
15 bills, and thousands of family-sustaining jobs.  
16 The real risk lies in delay. Thank you.

17 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Len.

18 Our next speaker is Keith Schue. Keith:

19 KEITH SCHUE: Hello. Can you hear me?

20 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Keith.

21 KEITH SCHUE: Thank you.

22 Yeah, my name is Keith Schue with New York  
23 Energy and Climate Advocates, an organization that  
24 understands the need for climate solutions that  
25 work in the real world. I have a master's in

1           electrical engineering. I'm also an  
2           environmentalist. I was employed for several  
3           years with the Nature Conservancy in Florida,  
4           where my work focused on the relationship between  
5           human infrastructure and ecosystems. When I moved  
6           to New York, I fought tracking.

7           In my opinion, there is an important role  
8           for public power. It is to build energy assets  
9           that are more difficult for the private sector, it  
10          may be due to upfront cost or a longer return on  
11          investment, but which are essential to energy  
12          security and a functional grid.

13          NYPA's involvement in developing and  
14          operating New York's long-lasting hydropower and  
15          nuclear facilities are good examples of this. So  
16          is the Governor's recent announcement directing  
17          NYPA to build new nuclear power, so is NYPA's  
18          building of transmission infrastructure.

19          On the other hand, I'm not particularly  
20          thrilled about NYPA spending public resources to  
21          deploy underperforming, fragile, intermittent  
22          forms of energy that don't last, that are made in  
23          China, and that weaken our grid.

24          It's not credible to demand 15 gigawatts of  
25          solar and wind when the infrastructure won't be

1           there to support it, and more importantly, without  
2           a system-level strategy to get us to zero  
3           emissions. Intermittent generation, even with a  
4           gargantuan amount of storage, can't solve this  
5           problem. Without prudent planning today for  
6           advanced nuclear, we will find ourselves in a  
7           situation where fossil fuels get locked in as an  
8           in- -- as an inextricable partner of solar and  
9           wind. It's already happening in California in  
10          Germany.

11           I do understand you have directives, but I  
12          would urge NYPA not to deplete all of its  
13          resources and financial capital when those  
14          resources will be absolutely essential to ensure  
15          that the grid continues to work as we hopefully  
16          pursue a decarbonization strategy that understands  
17          the importance of high-capacity factor (inaudible)  
18          generation.

19           I want to say something about the proposed  
20          projects. I agree with some who spoke about the  
21          need to bring renewable generation closer to the  
22          load. It won't get New York City off of -- off of  
23          fossil fuels, but it does make more sense than  
24          what you're doing now.

25           I'm also concerned about ecological harm.

1 For example, one of the proposed projects is a  
2 giant 449-megawatt wind installation straddling  
3 the northern edge of the Adirondacks, just south  
4 of the St. Lawrence River. That could clobber an  
5 important north-south flyway for migratory birds  
6 between the U.S. and Canada.

7 A big problem with the proposed RAPID Act  
8 regulations is that they don't consider ecological  
9 -- ecological connectivity and large-landscape  
10 level ecosystems that extend beyond the boundaries  
11 of individual projects.

12 Frankly, I'm saddened that so many  
13 so-called environmental groups have stopped caring  
14 about such things, but as a public partner on  
15 these projects, NYPA should.

16 For reference, the 340-megawatt Alle-Catt  
17 Wind Project no longer involves NYPA, but it's  
18 projected to kill 87 bald eagles over its  
19 lifetime. Meanwhile, today, there are only about  
20 400 breeding pairs of bald eagles in the whole  
21 state. So, if New York erects thousands of wind  
22 turbines upstate to make 10,000 megawatts that  
23 some people are demanding, it ought to be clear  
24 that extirpation of the species is a -- is a real  
25 danger as a real possibility.

1 Cumulative impacts definitely matter. I'll  
2 put more comments in writing. Thank you.

3 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Keith.

4 Our next speaker is Daniel Atonna. Daniel?

5 DANIEL ATONNA: Hello, I'm Daniel Attona --

6 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Hi.

7 DANIEL ATONNA: -- a member and community  
8 organizer who lives and grew up in Poughkeepsie.  
9 I work at the grassroots organization For The  
10 Many. I'm also a member of Mid-Hudson Valley DSA.

11 I'm joining Public Power New York in  
12 demanding that NYPA build 15 gigawatts of public  
13 renewable energy by 2030. Seven is better than  
14 four, but it's still not enough to hit our CLCPA  
15 Climate Act mandates.

16 Building 15 gigawatts will lower utility  
17 bills, create 25,000 green union jobs, and help  
18 close the extra polluting peaker plants.

19 Climate change is real. The World  
20 Meteorological Organization confirmed that 2024  
21 was the warmest year on record based on six  
22 international data sets. The second warmest year  
23 on record was 2023.

24 The Hudson River is rising, which is  
25 affecting the drinking water for the Hutson 7.

1           The Beacon Train Station floods when it rains,  
2           sometimes making the station unusable. Stronger  
3           storms are causing longer blackouts. Last year,  
4           there were wildfires in Dutchess, Orange, and  
5           Ulster Counties at the same time, which made the  
6           air unbreathable, and droughts were drying up New  
7           York City's upstate reservoirs.

8           This is a climate emergency; a five-alarm  
9           fire for our entire planet. Our billionaire  
10          fascist President is denying science and setting  
11          us back on climate policy by decades. We need New  
12          York to do more or we are doomed.

13          NYPA must commit to building 15 gigawatts  
14          of public renewable energy by 2030. We need NYPA  
15          to build faster to start construction before the  
16          federal solar and wind tax credits expire. With  
17          IRA credits expiring, NYPA must commit to build --  
18          developing alternative financing methods such as  
19          expanded bond financing.

20          We want at least 5 gigawatts of capacity  
21          for the Hudson Valley in Downstate New York, with  
22          more attention to distributed energy resources.

23          Right now, minimal proposed capacity is  
24          cited on public land or institutions. NYPA should  
25          substantially increase the number of such projects

1 in partnership with the Department of Education,  
2 MTA, and NYCHA. NYPA should plan additional  
3 projects on brownfield sites to turn polluted land  
4 into a positive use.

5 We can fully decarbonize our public schools  
6 by siting utility-scale and distributed generation  
7 on SUNY and CUNY campuses, and building enough  
8 capacity to meet their energy demands.

9 All renewable projects should be REACH  
10 eligible to help people save money on their  
11 utility bills. We must build enough downstate  
12 generation projects to replace NYPA's methane gas  
13 peaker plants by 2030 as required by law.

14 I was part of the historic campaign to pass  
15 the New York Build Public Renewables Act. Now  
16 it's time for Governor Hochul and NYPA to make  
17 that law a reality, stand up to Donald Trump,  
18 stand up for science, build 15 gigawatts of  
19 renewable energy now. Thank you.

20 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Daniel.

21 Our next speaker is Mark Schaeffer. Mark?

22 MARK SCHAEFFER: Unmuted. Thank you.

23 I live in Albany. I was a member of the  
24 CDTA Board of Directors for six years. I'm on the  
25 Policy Committee of New York Renews, and I've been

1 a leader of 350.org in the capital region,  
2 speaking for myself.

3 I agree with the others who said we need to  
4 build at least 15 gigawatts of public renewables  
5 by 2030. The CLCPA is not a suggestion. It is a  
6 legal mandate. It's also a moral imperative. The  
7 climate emergency is accelerating, becoming  
8 increasingly destructive. We're seeing, you know,  
9 historic firestorms in Canada over the last few  
10 years, polluting the air in the United States.  
11 Terrible firestorms now in Europe, increasing  
12 floods, killer heat waves all over the world.  
13 We're not talking about a threat to future  
14 generations, but to everybody now is at risk.

15 The -- the world is approaching the unknown  
16 point of no return towards accelerating feedbacks,  
17 which could drive the earth to a hothouse-earth  
18 equilibrium in which much of the earth would  
19 become uninhabitable, but meanwhile, it's already  
20 driving millions of climate refugees around the  
21 world.

22 The -- the good news is that renewable  
23 energy is far exceeding expectations as it --  
24 costs decline exponentially for solar, wind, and  
25 energy storage. Together, it -- it becomes a very

1 reliable source of energy, and now less costly  
2 than fossil energy.

3 California and Texas are going (technical  
4 difficulty) ahead. It's now over 90 percent of  
5 the capacity in the U.S. and worldwide. New York  
6 is currently spending some \$50 billion a year on  
7 fossil energy, almost all from out of state. As  
8 we ramp that down, those monies will be available  
9 within the state.

10 Nuclear is too slow and too expensive,  
11 especially new systems which are unproven.  
12 President Kennedy set the goal of putting a man on  
13 the moon in 10 years. All the logistics weren't  
14 worked out, but it was a priority, and we did it.

15 This is a mission to planet Earth. A  
16 survival mission. As they say at NASA, failure is  
17 not an option. Thank you.

18 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Mark.

19 Our next speaker is Madison Hodges.

20 Madison.

21 MADISON HODGES: Can you hear me?

22 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thank you.

23 MADISON HODGES: Wonderful.

24 Thank you for your time. I'm Madison  
25 Hodges. I live in Astoria, Queens.

1           I'm calling in today as a ratepayer and a  
2           resident concerned about public health,  
3           affordability, and climate change. I live a  
4           15-minute walk away from two methane-powered  
5           peaker plants, which emit pollutants into my  
6           neighborhood during periods of high-energy demand  
7           for myself and my neighbors to breathe.

8           I eagerly look forward to the day that the  
9           state achieves its mandated goal of retiring these  
10          plants by 2030, but after reviewing the Draft  
11          Plan, I'm concerned that NYPA is not planning and  
12          not prepared to provide sufficient renewable  
13          energy capacity in the downstate region to  
14          actually facilitate this retirement.

15          I've also personally gone in and out of  
16          energy burden, which means that I spend over 6  
17          percent of my monthly income to power my apartment  
18          and sometimes choose to forego air conditioning to  
19          save money for other bills.

20          I do not believe that the  
21          energy-affordability crisis can be resolved in the  
22          current system of investor-owned utilities, who  
23          are incentivized to build -- incentivized to build  
24          more energy through costly means rather than  
25          choose options that can actually return on its

1 investment, such as solar and wind.

2 With these things in mind, I, as a general  
3 New Yorker and ratepayer, put my full support  
4 behind publicly-owned renewables above all other  
5 forms of energy. Therefore, I call upon NYPA to  
6 increase the planned capacity in the Strategic  
7 Plan to at least 15 gigawatts of new  
8 publicly-owned renewables.

9 I would also like to see at least 5  
10 gigawatts of that energy planned for the Hudson  
11 Valley and Downstate New York region, where  
12 renewables are needed and wanted. Through this  
13 commitment, this gives the State a chance to  
14 actually retire the methane gas peaker plants by  
15 2030.

16 I also call upon NYPA to strengthen its  
17 focus on distributed energy resources, which can  
18 provide and -- with the pairing of battery  
19 technology, can provide stored energy during peak  
20 demand and release -- reduce reliance on peaker  
21 plants.

22 I am sympathetic to the setbacks that NYPA  
23 is facing as a result of the current federal  
24 administration, but I'm more sympathetic to the  
25 New Yorkers who are breathing in toxic chemicals

1 from these peaker plants, and that is why I insist  
2 the Strategic Plan for enough downstate renewable  
3 generation projects to replace NYPA's methane-gas  
4 peaker plants.

5 My last main point is that I would like to  
6 see a substantial increase in the number of  
7 projects cited on public lands in partnership with  
8 the Department of Education, MTA, and NYCHA. It's  
9 recently come to my attention that -- I think one  
10 in five New York school children are in classrooms  
11 with no air conditioning. And it is my hope that  
12 through the siting of distributed renewable  
13 energy, that they are able to access better and  
14 more affordable options to power these buildings.

15 That concludes my comment. Thank you for  
16 your time.

17 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Madison.

18 Our next speaker is George Robinson.

19 George?

20 GEORGE ROBINSON: Sorry, I was muted.

21 LINDSAY KRYZAK: That's okay.

22 GEORGE ROBINSON: Great.

23 I'm a retired professor of Biological  
24 Sciences from the University at Albany. In the  
25 meantime, I've served on NYSERDA's Climate Impact

1           Assessment, the most recent one, as one of many  
2           authors. But what I want to talk about is solar.  
3           There's so many, you know, options out there, but  
4           I think solar is a really good one.

5                     Fifteen years I've had solar on my roof,  
6           and I don't regret it. It was a great investment.  
7           It meets our needs, and it also meets many of  
8           yours, although we've never been sent a note of  
9           thanks by the Governor.

10                    During periods of high-peak demand, we're  
11           generating electricity on those hot, sunny days.  
12           We're contributing to the grid. And in addition  
13           to that, we're not -- we're not generating fossil  
14           fuels -- I'm sorry -- we're not generating  
15           greenhouse gases. We're not generating toxins.  
16           And we're not generating waste heat.

17                    Nobody thanks us for that. There are many  
18           of us, and I hope that in the future plans, that  
19           there will be many, many more of us because it's a  
20           wonderful alternative to the current state of  
21           affairs.

22                    You know, at this point, you know, what  
23           we're looking at is fossil fuel corporate  
24           interests, and they've steered the world into a  
25           horrible feedback loop of unstable climate,

1 producing more energy demand, that they claim only  
2 they can address. That's a pathological  
3 situation. And here, we have the opportunity to  
4 treat the pathology. And we can do that by adding  
5 a lot more solar and other renewables into the  
6 grid.

7 Now, I'm very grateful to hear so many  
8 people in agreement, and I hope you join them and  
9 join me, because this is a critical time. We have  
10 very little time left. I -- I urge everyone to  
11 read the Climate Impact Assessment. Some of the  
12 speakers have noted that, you know, changes are  
13 occurring right now in front of us. They're not  
14 in the future, that they're happening.

15 So, I think it's time that we really look  
16 at all of the opportunities we have, including, as  
17 many speakers have noted, you know, upping the --  
18 the renewables to 15 gigawatts at a minimum, and  
19 looking to the future to improve on that.

20 So, thank you for this opportunity.

21 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, George.

22 Our next speaker is Matthew Smith.

23 Matthew?

24 Hi, Matthew. I see you on the line.

25 Matthew Smith? We'll come back.

1           Our next speaker is Christopher Hoy.

2           Christopher?

3           CHRISTOPHER HOY: Can you hear me now?

4           LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thank you.

5           CHRISTOPHER HOY: My name is Christopher  
6           Hoy. I live in the North Country. I'm here for  
7           my grandchildren, Izzy and Max. I'm a member of  
8           Third Act, a group of Fossils Against Fossil  
9           Fuels.

10           In 1907, Governor Charles Evans Hughes  
11           declared that New York's water power should be  
12           preserved and held for the benefit of the people  
13           rather than surrender to private entities. 1931,  
14           Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt created what is now  
15           NYPA.

16           I call on NYPA to continue its foundational  
17           mission of putting public good ahead of private  
18           profits. Renewable solar, wind, and battery offer  
19           the most economical, most rapidly implemented,  
20           most reliable, and safest energy production.

21           It is also time for Governor Hochul and  
22           Mr. Driscoll to stop delaying implementation of  
23           the laws of the State of New York, the CLCPA of  
24           2019, and the Build Public Renewables Act of 2023.

25           New -- and NYPA has already revised its

1 draft plan for renewals from 3 to 7 gigawatts.  
2 The real question is whether you're gaslighting  
3 us. Past performance does not predict NYPA's  
4 successful future compliance. The lack of  
5 imagination in finding public sites for  
6 distributed development is striking, as is the  
7 lack of a plan to rapidly phase out peaker fossil  
8 fuel plants and use the sites and their grids for  
9 public renewables.

10 Governor Hochul wishes to build nuclear  
11 power plants. The most powerful law in the human  
12 universe is the law of unintended consequences,  
13 and no industry better illustrates that law than  
14 the nuclear industry. Nuclear tech- -- new  
15 nuclear technologies remain unproven. Given the  
16 industry's past performance, no one should accept  
17 their guarantees of future energy production,  
18 safety, and costs at this time. Not in my  
19 backyard; not with my taxes, please.

20 President Trump's OBBA (sic) will increase  
21 average utility costs to Americans by \$125  
22 annually. The New York Public Service Commission  
23 continues to approve rate hikes of 8 percent to 19  
24 percent annually for National Grid, Con Ed, and  
25 Central Hudson. In contrast, NYPA has the

1 potential to introduce sources of electricity that  
2 would lower consumer bills.

3 Finally, NYPA needs to commit to an  
4 equitable distribution of these resources.  
5 Preserving unobstructed ocean views for the  
6 obscenely weal- -- wealthy does not outrank  
7 improving the air quality of poor communities.

8 In conclusion, I ask NYPA to increase their  
9 goal for renewable public power production to 15  
10 gigawatts by 2030 as required by New York State  
11 law. I ask that five gigawatts be built in the  
12 Hudson Valley in New York City. I ask Governor  
13 Hochul and Mr. Driscoll to demonstrate the  
14 willpower and transparency to confirm their  
15 commitment to these goals by their actions. Up to  
16 now, you are talking the talk, but not walking the  
17 walk. Thank you.

18 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Christopher.

19 Our next speaker is Matthew Smith.

20 Matthew?

21 MATTHEW SMITH: Hello. Can you hear me?

22 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thank you.

23 MATTHEW SMITH: The last time that didn't  
24 pop up for me. I don't know why.

25 But -- yeah. Hi, my name is Matthew Smith.

1 I am a student studying physics and mathematics,  
2 as well as a researcher in theoretical physics at  
3 Fordham University.

4 I won't spend too much time addressing  
5 previously false statements. However, the claim  
6 that, quote, anybody who knows anything would say  
7 that we need a mixture of all energy sources,  
8 including gas. Well, as a physicist, I can say  
9 that's completely false.

10 I chose to study these subjects, physics  
11 and mathematics, because of the climate crisis we  
12 are facing. However, I'm extremely discouraged to  
13 see Governor Hochul betraying the climate goals  
14 that she claims to support. She only claims to  
15 support these climate goals when she's up for  
16 re-election. Why is that? It's because she  
17 doesn't actually care about the climate.

18 Why should I dedicate my entire life to  
19 studying these fields if the government, including  
20 Governor Kathy Hochul, despite our scientific  
21 papers showing that the need to expand renewable  
22 energies, the government is refusing to do it?

23 While Hochul and Justin Driscoll pat  
24 themselves on the back for 7 gigawatts, we know  
25 that they are not doing nearly enough. People

1 where I live, in the Bronx, are getting asthma and  
2 dying because of the peaker plants Hochul and  
3 Justin Driscoll refuse to shut down.

4 Fifteen gigawatts is not some fun little  
5 goal we got -- we came up with. The studies have  
6 been done, and it is the bare minimum to meet our  
7 climate goals. It has been shown that not only is  
8 it economically feasible for NYPA to build 15  
9 gigawatts, it must be done.

10 Now, I am supportive of nuclear power, and  
11 I reject the claim that it's somehow a dangerous  
12 source of power. However, it is extremely costly  
13 and takes a significant amount of time to build.  
14 Therefore, we must focus our energy on building at  
15 a minimum of 15 gigawatts of publicly-owned  
16 renewable energy to meet our climate goals. Thank  
17 you.

18 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Matthew.

19 Our next speaker is Nektarios Harding.

20 Nektarios?

21 NEKTARIOS HARDING: Can you hear me now?

22 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can, yes.

23 NEKTARIOS HARDING: Okay. Sorry.

24 I'm a very interested party in this matter.

25 I am from Holy Trinity Monastery in Upstate New

1 York. We have been following the progress of a  
2 project that's currently with the New York State  
3 Public Service Administration, Rolling Hills  
4 Terra-Gen, which is -- started to have 75  
5 windmills, over 50- -- or 15,000 to 75,000 acres  
6 in our area, basically surrounding us.

7 We successfully avoided two past projects  
8 due to the fact that we are a state historical  
9 preservation site and a national state historical  
10 preservation site. But what I would like to say  
11 is that it's unreasonable to assume that renewable  
12 energy sources will fill the energy gap.

13 Single-home projects should be fostered, but  
14 large-scale destruction of our prime farmland  
15 areas and cultural and historic properties to  
16 accommodate large-scale wind and solar is utter  
17 madness.

18 New York State has not made any meaningful  
19 progress toward these goals. It's well-documented  
20 in credible public agency reports, the State's  
21 irrational pursuit of excessive wind and solar  
22 energy generation has led to disastrous  
23 environmental consequences, public unrest, and has  
24 only increased its reliance on fossil fuels.

25 Continued investment in wind and solar to

1 the exclusion of reliable baseload, and load  
2 following, and dispatchable low-carbon sources,  
3 such as nuclear, hydropower, or geothermal, will  
4 not change this trend. An all-renewals electrical  
5 grid is inherently unstable, cannot provide  
6 reliable power, and will sustainably- -  
7 substantially increase the cost of power for both  
8 taxpayers and ratepayers.

9 Have we not learned anything from the  
10 recent events in Spain and Portugal, where  
11 overreliance on renewables led to a complete crash  
12 of their grid?

13 There's no mandate for NYPA to build a  
14 15-gigawatt of solar and wind when it's fiscally  
15 irresponsible and ruinous to the grid.

16 In addition, we're not reducing the  
17 emissions with offshore wind. According to the  
18 Vineyard Environmental Impact Study, offshore wind  
19 doesn't reduce emissions. The experimental,  
20 expensive, and dangerous lithium-ion battery  
21 energy storage does not reduce emissions.

22 Governor Hochul and the green lobbyists  
23 need to stop the narrative that battery storage is  
24 safe and cheaper. Governor Hochul allowed Equinor  
25 to rebuild -- rebid its power contract, resulting

1 in a three-year increase in rates compared to what  
2 they're currently paying.

3 Battery storage costs are in the millions.  
4 Again, they're passed on to the taxpayers. Solar  
5 is cheaper because of all the tax dollars  
6 funneling back to other taxpayers as tax  
7 subsidies. Our utilities are now raising rates  
8 due to the Climate Change Superfund, which is  
9 charging fossil fuel companies 75 billion. Of  
10 course, this is going to be passed on to  
11 taxpayers.

12 I have more written comments that will be  
13 filed online, but thank you for the opportunity to  
14 speak.

15 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Nektarios.

16 Our next speaker is Deborah Porter.

17 Deborah?

18 Deborah, we'll come back.

19 Our next speaker is Dave Bradley. Dave?

20 DAVE BRADLEY: Thank you for holding this  
21 session. My name is David Bradley. I live in the  
22 Finger Lakes region of New York, and I'm an  
23 engineer.

24 And from an engineering standpoint, I have  
25 a request for you: Instead of boasting about

1 gigawatts of capacity, which is an essentially  
2 meaningless term unless you actually define what  
3 kind of technology you're using to generate it,  
4 you use the term gigawatts delivered or just  
5 old-fashioned gigawatt-hours per year.

6 These are just needlessly confusing. And  
7 for example, 15 gigawatts of solar, that's about 2  
8 gigawatts delivered, or 17.532 gigawatt --  
9 gigawatt-hours per year.

10 15 gigawatts of wind should be about three  
11 times that, or around 50- -- 53 gigawatt-hours per  
12 year. So -- you know, so, anyway, that's very  
13 confusing, and it sounds more impressive than it  
14 really is.

15 So, for the main part here, there's no  
16 technical reason why New York can't produce 70  
17 percent of its electricity by a non-polluting  
18 renewable means, which mostly is going to mean  
19 wind and solar. The only reason that it's not  
20 being done is a lack of willpower. There's no  
21 technical reason why that can't be done. It's  
22 just a matter of politics.

23 And furthermore, NYPA has one great  
24 advantage over almost all private developers of  
25 renewable energy in that it can issue tax-exempt,

1 low-interest long-term bonds, which can then be  
2 financed by having the electricity sales from  
3 these projects pay off the bonds. No cost to  
4 taxpayers. No increase in tax rates.

5 And the bulk of renewable energy costs are  
6 dealing with the interest rate on the money loaned  
7 or borrowed to actually construct the project.  
8 So, the lowest cost money is the one that's going  
9 to deliver the lowest cost renewable for any given  
10 project.

11 You have a great potential to do the right  
12 thing, but you have a lot of momentum, which makes  
13 you not want to do anything much at all. And I  
14 really want to see us follow the CLCPA law, which  
15 means that we need approximately 9.1 gigawatts on  
16 a delivered basis by 2030. We're nowhere near  
17 getting there, and pretending like we're doing it,  
18 it's just not going to do what we want to do.

19 So, we can do this, but if you don't have  
20 the willpower to do it, it just won't be done.

21 Thank you.

22 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you.

23 Our next speaker is Nora Massie. Nora?

24 NORA MASSIE: Hello. Can you hear me?

25 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thank you, Nora.

1           NORA MASSIE: Hi. My name is Nora. I'm a  
2 resident of Upper Manhattan and a CUNY student.  
3 I'm here to insist that NYPA build at least 15  
4 gigawatts of public renewables by 2030.

5           I'm a lifelong New Yorker. I've  
6 experienced firsthand the way that climate change  
7 has completely altered summers and winters in the  
8 City, bringing extreme heat and extreme cold, as  
9 well as powerful storms.

10          I remember when Hurricane Sandy hit New  
11 York, and my family, and everyone we knew, lost  
12 power because the energy grid failed us.

13          I've watched with growing concern as these  
14 types of storms have increased in frequency and  
15 intensity over the last 13 years. I also have  
16 watched as my family's energy bills have got --  
17 continued to go up each summer to such an extent  
18 that my elderly mother often refrains from using  
19 air conditioning during the extreme heat in the  
20 summer because of how expensive it is.

21          I've watched as my relatives with children  
22 have had to leave the City because they are  
23 crushed under the affordability crisis of the  
24 city, worsened by the increasing energy bills.

25          Meanwhile, I've watched as Governor Kathy

1 Hochul betray New Yorkers by spreading untrue  
2 statements about public renewables. The heating  
3 planet is not just going to make life harder for  
4 polar bears and jaguars; it's also going to make  
5 life harder for the New Yorkers we all know and  
6 love, especially the more vulnerable New Yorkers.

7 It does not have to be this way. We have  
8 choices. We have money. And by building at least  
9 15 gigawatts of public renewables by 2030, we can  
10 lead the fight for our future, creating jobs,  
11 cutting pollution, and making New York affordable  
12 for everyone.

13 It's that easy, and that hard. Thank you.

14 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Nora.

15 Our next speaker is Brennan Howell.

16 Brennan?

17 BRENNAN HOWELL: Hi. Can you hear me?

18 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thank you.

19 BRENNAN HOWELL: Awesome. Thank you so  
20 much for calling on me.

21 My name is Brennan Howell. I'm a Volunteer  
22 Community Organizer and one of the Co-Chairs of  
23 the Capital District Democratic Socialists of  
24 America.

25 NYPA's updated plan, expanding their

1 proposed projects to 7 gigawatts, is certainly  
2 progress compared to the previous plan of 3  
3 gigawatts, but it is unfortunately still  
4 insufficient.

5 It's already been well-explained that we  
6 need to see a buildout of at least 15 gigawatts to  
7 hit our climate goals and provide New Yorkers with  
8 relief on their utility bills, and hit our climate  
9 goals. So, what I want to do is stress that it is  
10 really a matter of willingness to make that  
11 happen.

12 Since last year, you've heard from  
13 thousands of New Yorkers demanding that NYPA's  
14 plan meet what's necessary, including over 5,300  
15 of us calling for at least 15 gigawatts.

16 And, you know, there's a reason why so many  
17 people have gone out of their way to make the  
18 demands that you're hearing now. You know, it's  
19 not exactly in our nature to go out of our way to  
20 talk to state authorities, but we've all felt the  
21 real pain of our climate degrading in front of our  
22 eyes and the cost of our utility bills, forcing us  
23 to make impossible choices.

24 And several municipalities across the  
25 state, including my own here in Albany, with the

1 Common Council and the county itself, listening to  
2 the people of New York and passing resolutions to  
3 echo our demands.

4 NYPA can and should listen to the people of  
5 New York and their overwhelming call. There are  
6 certainly those whose interest it would be in if  
7 NYPA falters and the State falls short of these  
8 goals. And it pains me to say that it seems like  
9 Governor Hochul and Justin Driscoll want to see  
10 that happen, but that perspective does not  
11 represent New York.

12 I urge the Power Authority to prioritize  
13 the will of the people and do what must be done by  
14 building at least 15 gigawatts of publicly-owned  
15 renewable power.

16 This is especially important right now as  
17 we see the brazen embrace of AI and data centers  
18 across the country, which will cause electricity  
19 usage to skyrocket, exacerbating the climate  
20 crisis, and the energy-affordability crisis that  
21 we're already feeling the impacts of right now.

22 It is clear that NYPA has the ability to  
23 respond quickly to New Yorkers, as within seven  
24 months of the previous plan, the capacity has been  
25 more than doubled with this update. It is

1 imperative that NYPA feels that same sense of  
2 urgency that we all do and doubles it once again.  
3 Thank you.

4 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Brennan.

5 Our next speaker is Michele Stuart.

6 Michelle?

7 Okay. I think Michelle left.

8 Our next speaker is Brian Eden. Brian?

9 BRIAN EDEN: Hi, I'm Brian Eden. Are you  
10 hearing me now?

11 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We are. Thanks, Brian.

12 BRIAN EDEN: Okay. Sure.

13 I'm Policy Coordinator for the Campaign for  
14 Renewable Energy in Tompkins County. We're a  
15 15-year-old nonprofit public-interest organization  
16 that conducts public education programs promoting  
17 energy conservation, efficiency, and renewable  
18 energy.

19 Our organization strongly supported the  
20 enactment of the Climate Leadership and Community  
21 Protection Act in 2019, one of the most ambitious  
22 climate laws in the nation. It still is. The  
23 climate law requires the state to generate 70  
24 percent of its electricity from renewable sources  
25 by 2030.

1           It also created the Climate Action Council,  
2           tasked with developing a scoping plan that serves  
3           as a framework for reducing greenhouse gas  
4           emissions. The council adopted its final plan in  
5           2022, projecting reductions in New York's  
6           greenhouse gas emissions of 40 percent by 2030.

7           The planning process involved a huge amount  
8           of public interaction, seven sector working  
9           groups, and incorporated more than 35,000 public  
10          comments.

11          Immediately thereafter, the fossil fuel  
12          industry launched a campaign to block  
13          implementation of the plan. Notable opponents  
14          were -- included New Yorkers for Affordable  
15          Energy, the New York Propane Gas Association, the  
16          Independent Power Producers of New York, and  
17          National Fuel Gas. They encouraged customers to  
18          pressure elected officials to preserve fossil fuel  
19          use and blame rising utility costs on the climate  
20          plan and renewable energy. In response, the  
21          Governor began retreating from full implementation  
22          of the scoping plan.

23          The Governor and State agencies have since  
24          admitted that New York is badly off track in  
25          meeting the CLCPA goals. According to the latest

1 projections, the State will reach only 40 percent  
2 of its renewable electricity needs by 2030.

3 The Build Public Renewables Act was enacted  
4 to empower NYPA to lead the transition. NYPA's  
5 leadership must honor this mandate and revise its  
6 Strategic Plan to include at least 15 gigawatts of  
7 renewables by 2030 to ensure that we stay on  
8 target.

9 The Build Renewables Act (sic) provides  
10 NYPA much powerful tools to accelerate project  
11 development and begin construction in time to  
12 maximize federal solar and wind tax credits before  
13 they expire.

14 Meanwhile, New Yorkers continue to face  
15 soaring utility bills, which are sure to rise  
16 further as the Public Service Commission has  
17 continued to increase its support for large rate  
18 increases.

19 I'm now participating in my fourth -- when  
20 I say rate case, and -- and ratepayers are very  
21 angry, and clear that the existing process for  
22 resolving conflicts between utilities and the  
23 public is no longer working.

24 With the climate crisis worsening daily, we  
25 cannot wait for Trump to leave the office. With

1 NYPA and the BPRA, work is well-positioned to take  
2 the lead. At least one state agency must embody a  
3 vision that inspires our residents, and NYPA must  
4 take -- be that agency.

5 The combination of a public power utility  
6 that can self-finance in its accountable --

7 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Brian.

8 BRIAN EDEN: Thank you.

9 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Our next -- thank you.  
10 Our next speaker is Kathleen Sullivan. Kathleen?

11 KATHLEEN SULLIVAN: Can you hear me?

12 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thank you.

13 KATHLEEN SULLIVAN: All right. My first  
14 comment is: Does the end justify the means?  
15 Let's think about this, because all of your  
16 comments, everyone, every single one of you, are  
17 destroying one community to help other  
18 communities. The end does not justify the means.

19 What you're trying to do is to say, Let's  
20 have renewables. Right? Let's have offshore wind  
21 and destroy Long Beach like Hurricane Sandy.

22 With one little girl, who doesn't know that  
23 was a 100-year storm, if she actually looked up  
24 the hurricanes, we never had storms like that. It  
25 was a 100-year storm. Right? Hurricane Gloria,

1           which is 1985. I was there. She is wrong.

2                   The fossil fuel footprint in the United  
3 States is 15 percent. What are you going to do  
4 for the rest of the world? What you call fascist,  
5 this president, as he -- he is doing for the rest  
6 of the world, you want us to bite our nose off in  
7 spite of our face.

8                   The end does not justify the means, that  
9 you want certain communities to destroy  
10 themselves, to give energy to other parts of the  
11 -- of New York State.

12                   Okay. I'm sorry. I've lived on the  
13 barrier island my whole life. 54 years. And you  
14 are not going to destroy us so that we can help  
15 you. You're destroying communities by saying this  
16 is good for the rest of New York State. It is not  
17 good for certain communities. You are destroying  
18 a community to help others with your plans of  
19 getting to net zero.

20                   I'm sorry. I'm speaking from the heart.  
21 And (inaudible) in my life, I've never watched a  
22 whale wash up in 54 years until 2003, and I saw  
23 it.

24                   This is a despicable power grab, green  
25 scam, while all of you sit there and think that

1 offshore wind or wind is great.

2 Did anybody look at what happened in  
3 Nantucket? That blade is still underneath the  
4 ocean and still washing up with plastics that are  
5 non-biodegradable, and use fossil fuels.

6 You're listening to a farce. Listen to the  
7 community. Stop listening to your teachers' union  
8 that you want -- oh, air conditioning, because  
9 I've listened to about five people from teachers  
10 unions, oh -- get smart, learn about these  
11 (explicit word) things, and realize --

12 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Kathleen.

13 KATHLEEN SULLIVAN: -- what's going on.

14 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you.

15 Our next speaker is Mary Pearson. Mary?

16 MARY PEARSON: Hello. I am not talking  
17 about gigawatts. I live in Co-op City. Co-op  
18 City is the largest co-op in the world. We have  
19 15,000 units -- 15,372, but some aren't filled,  
20 but very few aren't filled.

21 We have what we call -- what is called a  
22 CHP plant. We have our own power plant, as does  
23 another Mitchell-Lama, Rochdale Village.

24 We are very interested in saving the  
25 planet, saving money eventually, and doing our

1 part to reduce carbon. I am part of the -- I'm on  
2 the Board of Directors at Riverbay, and I'm on the  
3 Carbon Reduction Group. I was very excited about  
4 enhanced geothermal systems. I don't hear that  
5 being talked about at all. It is not ready for  
6 Co-op City because we're very tall. We have  
7 buildings that are 24 stories to 33 stories. And  
8 geothermal -- enhanced geothermal is still  
9 fighting with -- struggling with mitigating  
10 earthquakes, so we're not right for it.

11 But there's plenty of places in New York  
12 State that -- that could accommodate. And there's  
13 a company called Fervo that's making great  
14 advancements with the boring equipment that halves  
15 the process. So, I would really like you to start  
16 looking at that a little bit, especially since  
17 you're looking at nuclear. And since I am a --  
18 you know, a child of the -- of the -- whatever it  
19 is when nuclear was a dirty word, it still is for  
20 me.

21 Okay. We're doing -- we're putting solar  
22 panels on our power plant, which we think is cute  
23 as heck.

24 I don't see a -- a timer on my thing. I  
25 saw it on for everybody else, so you have to tell

1 me when I have a minute left or something. No?

2 LINDSAY KRYZAK: I will. Thanks, Mary.  
3 I'm clocking it on here. Sorry about that.

4 MARY PEARSON: Okay. Actually, I can't  
5 judge it.

6 We're putting solar panels. It will cost  
7 about a million dollars to put a -- solar -- solar  
8 panels on our power plant. And then we have eight  
9 garages, which is next. We can do all of that for  
10 about 5 million. We have been saving our pennies.  
11 We have been getting money from the State for  
12 other reasons to just keep our affordable housing  
13 complex up and running. But we would like more,  
14 please.

15 And we do know Kathy Hochul has 5 billion  
16 that she was -- you know, for renewable energy  
17 that she was dolling out via Andrea  
18 Stewart-Cousins, and a step down from her is our  
19 senator, Senator Jamaal Bailey.

20 So, I just wanted to remind you, we're  
21 ready to cover everything in solar. We can  
22 produce 12.7 --

23 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Mary.

24 MARY PEARSON: -- megawatt -- megawatts  
25 (inaudible) --

1 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you.

2 MARY PEARSON: Thank you.

3 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Our next speaker is Nicole  
4 Dillingham. Nicole?

5 NICOLE DILLINGHAM: Hi there.

6 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Hi, Nicole.

7 NICOLE DILLINGHAM: Hi. So, my name is  
8 Nicole Dillingham. I'm speaking to you from just  
9 outside Cooperstown, New York, so Upstate to many  
10 of you. And I'm concerned that we recognize that  
11 protecting the environment of broader New York,  
12 not just the cities, but also the countrysides,  
13 the historic places, the agricultural lands, is  
14 also crucial. It's crucial, frankly, to the  
15 environment.

16 We -- if we cover all of these spaces, with  
17 solar panels and wind turbines, we are in effect  
18 industrializing a large part of the natural  
19 environment. And I think we need to find a  
20 solution that actually addresses -- a -- solutions  
21 that include all of the above; so we have rooftop  
22 solar, we have hydropower, we have geothermal, and  
23 we have advanced nuclear. And we put them where  
24 they make the most sense for New York State and  
25 for the country.

1           So, there is a place for huge wind turbine  
2 projects, but they shouldn't be placed in historic  
3 sites or agricultural land. They can be placed in  
4 places in the country where the wind blows very  
5 strongly and doesn't need to be supported by  
6 fossil fuels.

7           You know, New Yorkers banned fracking more  
8 than a decade ago now. They were very proud of  
9 this achievement, and it was a great achievement.  
10 I fought hard for that. But the reality is that  
11 right now in New York, our energy systems are  
12 still supported by fracked gas. We just import it  
13 from Pennsylvania. Our -- our State is still  
14 being inundated with pipeline proposals,  
15 compressor station buildouts, and so forth.

16           So, we have to recognize that we could  
17 install a lot of solar and a lot of wind. But if  
18 it's intermittent and not consistent and not  
19 reliable, we will still need to rely on those  
20 fossil fuel sources, probably coming, I hope, from  
21 out of state, but they're nevertheless fossil fuel  
22 sources that contribute to greenhouse gas  
23 emissions in the environment more broadly.

24           So, we need an all-of-the-above solution,  
25 but it really needs to protect farmland,

1 residential areas, places of recreation, and  
2 historic sites.

3 And I heard Father Nektarios of the Holy  
4 Trinity Monastery speak earlier. It's a very  
5 significant site here in Upstate New York. This  
6 site, and others like it, must be protected, or we  
7 will lose more than we gain.

8 So, thank you very much for the work you're  
9 doing.

10 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Nicole.

11 Our next speaker is Matt Peros. Matt?

12 MATT PEROS: Hi. Can you hear me?

13 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Matt.

14 MATT PEROS: Good evening. Today is my  
15 first time speaking at a hearing like this, so  
16 I'll try to be brief.

17 As a lifetime Queens resident, a former  
18 EMT, and a CUNY biologist, I believe in the -- in  
19 -- I believe that NYPA's simple yet important  
20 mission is crucial: Lead the transition to a  
21 carbon-free, economically vibrant New York through  
22 its various activities.

23 Right now, I don't believe that NYPA is  
24 working as a leader in this effort. New Yorkers  
25 don't need 7 out of 15 gigawatts of

1 publicly-generated water -- power.

2 As a Mets fan -- I'm a Mets fan, so I'm  
3 used to accepting half a victory, but NYPA is not  
4 a baseball team. It's public entity acting in the  
5 public's interest. There's no postseason to throw  
6 away with crappy bullpen calls, just our planet,  
7 our only home.

8 In the face of intensifying climate  
9 disasters, higher utility costs, more air  
10 pollution, and a federal administration dead set  
11 on destroying the EPA and killing federal climate  
12 action, we cannot afford half-ass measures.  
13 Starting with Mr. Driscoll's measly proposal of 3  
14 gigawatts of renewables, we fought for a better  
15 plan, resulting in the current 7-gigawatt proposal  
16 we're set on now.

17 But this still isn't enough. So, here's  
18 what we still need from NYPA: Minimum 15  
19 gigawatts of renewables by 2030, increased project  
20 pacing to make use of the expired tax credits,  
21 fully decarbonized public schools and  
22 institutions, partnerships with DOE, MTA, and  
23 NYCHA to use spaces like rooftops for solar  
24 production, and ditch the peaker plants.

25 We know the impacts these initiatives have

1 on improving the environment, ecosystems, and  
2 lives of the people of New York, but we also know  
3 the repercussions on our horizon. Stop looking  
4 for advice from consultants that are hired to tell  
5 you what you want to hear. Listen to the ranks of  
6 climate and environmental scholars from New York's  
7 own public universities who know much better than  
8 all of us, and partner with them for project  
9 planning instead. Hire CUNY and SUNY graduates  
10 who are well-trained and equipped for the jobs  
11 needed to reach your goals. And we are pleading,  
12 demanding, protesting, and reminding you to uphold  
13 your end of the bargain and do your jobs to the  
14 best of your ability, not at the minimum to  
15 collect a paycheck. Thank you.

16 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Matt.

17 Our next speaker is Josh Karen. Josh?

18 JOSH KAREN: Hi. Can you hear me?

19 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Hi, Josh. We can. Thank  
20 you.

21 JOSH KAREN: Yeah. So, I'm here to  
22 recognize that the 7 gigawatts is a great jump and  
23 is also literally only half of what is needed at a  
24 bare minimum. So, I'm -- you know, here to call  
25 on NYPA to commit to 15 gigawatts of public

1 renewable energy.

2 I don't want to be here. I'm running from  
3 a dentist appointment, still numbed in my face, as  
4 you can possibly hear, sweating in the humidity of  
5 City -- a City that is now classified as  
6 subtropical with our changing climate.

7 None of us tonight want to be here. We  
8 could be out enjoying our neighborhoods, reading a  
9 book, or watching TV, but everyone here also knows  
10 that this moment cannot wait. We cannot shrug  
11 away the climate crisis and the need for public  
12 renewables simply because it will affect the  
13 profits of private companies and developers, and  
14 the beck and call of politicians like Driscoll and  
15 Hochul.

16 7 gigawatts is a great jump to applaud from  
17 the previously inadequate plan, and it is also  
18 literally only half. Everyone is here tonight  
19 catching a chance at one of the only two public  
20 comment periods, time out of their day, because we  
21 simply cannot say halfway is good enough with the  
22 climate crisis.

23 Also, to call out plans that determine our  
24 entire State's future power infrastructure deserve  
25 more than two short Zoom comment periods for the

1 entire state. New Yorkers deserve more. NYPA  
2 needs to build 15 gigawatts of public renewables  
3 because that is the bare minimum to meet our  
4 State's legally mandated emissions goals, because  
5 we are facing blackouts across the state, sky-high  
6 bills without this action. Because our children  
7 and neighbors, and communities deserve to envision  
8 a future that isn't increasingly brutal summers,  
9 droughts, water crisis, cascading failures across  
10 our farms, forests, rivers, and oceans. Because  
11 meeting our bare minimum legal mandate for our own  
12 State's emissions is the bare minimum for human  
13 rights, so our children don't have to suffer from  
14 our mistakes.

15 This is not an undoable pipe dream. NYPA  
16 has already shown their vision and ambition,  
17 doubling their plan and your plan to 7 gigawatts.  
18 We don't have to let a fascist-bully  
19 administration, denying climate change, control  
20 our state. We don't have to stop at 7 gigawatts,  
21 not even hitting that human rights minimum for our  
22 children.

23 Countries across the world, from Asia to  
24 Europe, are lapping us in renewable energy.  
25 Analysts across the world, and -- and even the

1 United Nations, have recognized that solar and  
2 wind are the cheapest, most sustainable forms of  
3 power, and the fuel source for the future.

4 This isn't theoretical. This is our  
5 children's future, our neighbors, our communities.  
6 It is not the far future. It is now. It has  
7 become life or death, even if some people here  
8 think that's scripted or extreme. It is build or  
9 burn. Build 15 gigawatts of renewables. New  
10 Yorkers don't leave a job half done. Thank you.

11 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Josh.

12 Our next speaker is Stephanie Milks.  
13 Stephanie?

14 Stephanie Milks, see you on the chat.  
15 Stephanie, we'll come back.

16 Our next speaker is MW Monahan. MW?

17 MW MONAHAN: Good evening. Thank you.

18 I'm MW Monahan from Long Island and a  
19 member of Protect Our Coast, Long Island, New  
20 York, soon to be a victim of destructive Empire  
21 Wind. It's criminal that Empire Wind, despite all  
22 its security risks and environmental threats, that  
23 it remains unhalted.

24 Are you wind supporters aware of the  
25 thousands of redactions in the planning documents

1 to hide their corner-cutting? Are you aware they  
2 withheld the vital information that their turbines  
3 sit on a fault?

4 We had two earthquakes this summer, and we  
5 believe that it's directly related to Empire  
6 Wind's pile driving. Nantucket is now finding  
7 (inaudible) wind. That broken blade still sits on  
8 the ocean floor after a year, littered waters,  
9 beaches, and fish with toxic materials and  
10 fiberglass.

11 To the Sierra Club and supporters of wind  
12 and solar, I beg you, please, get educated.  
13 Sierra, due to its conflict of interest, should be  
14 stricken from these calls. They received millions  
15 from Bloomberg's Beyond Coal Campaign in an effort  
16 to spread false information about reliable oil and  
17 gas. 500 million across multiple agencies, and  
18 174 million for the Sierra Club.

19 The other wind and solar supporters reside  
20 in the City and boroughs. They are inauthentic  
21 and the true NIMBYs. They are not impacted by  
22 destructive wind and solar. It's Long Island and  
23 Upstate New York to get the burden.

24 Allow me to educate: On July 17, New York  
25 PSC ruled cancelation of the New York City

1 Offshore Wind Transmission Line need. Wind is  
2 done, near obsolescence.

3 The alleged climate crisis is a hoax.  
4 Developers and BOEM say in their own EIS and  
5 planning docs that wind energy will not improve  
6 climate change one bit. Wind is hardly reliable.  
7 It's a parasite on our grid, and super expensive.  
8 It's going to be impossibly expensive to construct  
9 in light of today's Trump news that he's raising  
10 steel towers 50 percent to target the stop of  
11 offshore wind.

12 Natural gas pipelines are the best solution  
13 to keep us energy independent. We have an  
14 abundance. It's affordable and clean. Nuclear  
15 and hydro are also good, clean, reliable  
16 solutions. Cuomo shutting down Indian Point  
17 Nuclear was a horrible move in energy history,  
18 behind Biden canceling the Keystone Pipeline.

19 It's sad that many of these callers crying  
20 for lost jobs didn't care about those folks losing  
21 their livelihood.

22 Long Island, with its south-facing position  
23 in the ocean, has the most beautiful beaches in  
24 the northeast. The destruction of Empire Wind  
25 will be irreversible.

1 Wind supporters, you don't know the harm  
2 you're doing to our planet. We only have one  
3 planet it. Please be the solution and not the  
4 problem. Thank you.

5 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, MW.

6 Michele Stuart, I think you are back.  
7 Sorry, I missed you earlier. Michelle, are you on  
8 the line again? Michelle, we'll come back to you  
9 when we figure out the technical piece.

10 Joan Matthews. Our next speaker is Joan  
11 Matthews. Joan?

12 Joan may have stepped away.

13 Our next speaker is Steven Collins.  
14 Steven?

15 STEVEN COLLINS: Hello. Can you hear me?

16 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Steven.

17 STEVEN COLLINS: Yes. My name is Steven  
18 Collins. I'm a resident of Herkimer County, a  
19 retired Professor of Engineering, and a licensed  
20 professional engineer in the states of New York  
21 and Washington.

22 I am concerned as a citizen and as an  
23 engineer about the -- NYPA's Updated Strategic  
24 Plan. First, there is a heavy reliance on  
25 utility-scale wind and solar plants, whose

1 generation is highly variable and intermittent.  
2 Large amounts of storage and other dispatchable  
3 generating plants will no doubt be needed to fill  
4 the gaps.

5 And because of their comparatively low  
6 capacity factors, we'll need -- really enormous  
7 numbers of large turbines and -- and acreages of  
8 solar panels. In -- in one estimate I've seen, it  
9 was 700 of large wind turbines and 30,000 acres of  
10 solar panels to deliver the equivalent annual  
11 energy output of a single gigawatt. One gigawatt  
12 nuclear plant. That's a lot of solar and wind to  
13 cover the landscape.

14 And second, because of their low energy  
15 density, wind and solar plants take up a lot more  
16 land than do other power plants. And in our  
17 state, much of this land has productive  
18 agricultural uses, and is in environmentally  
19 sensitive areas with sizable rural populations and  
20 cultural resources. One of which is the  
21 aforementioned Holy Trinity Monastery, which --  
22 which sits in the bullseye of a large proposed  
23 wind and solar project, that the risks are borne  
24 mostly by Upstate residents, while Downstate  
25 residents stand to benefit the most, presents a

1           disturbing social justice angle that must not be  
2           ignored.

3           Finally, reengineering the grid to balance  
4           highly variable bidirectional electricity flows  
5           and interconnect them across a wide landscape will  
6           add complexity and costs. These costs will no  
7           doubt be borne by ratepayers in a state that  
8           already has the seventh-highest residential  
9           electricity cost.

10          And I'll add that I come from Washington  
11          State, and the residential cost here for power is  
12          exactly double what it is in Washington State,  
13          which also has heavy hydro.

14          To conclude, I suggest NYPA focus its  
15          efforts on making electricity more affordable and  
16          reliable. Reducing the carbon footprint is also  
17          an important goal, yet carbon-free power should  
18          not come at the expense of our Upstate  
19          environmental resources or the stability of the  
20          grid, nor should it be forced down the throats of  
21          communities who do not wish to see farmland  
22          papered over with black panels and 300-foot-tall  
23          wind turbines.

24          I would urge NYPA to continue to build on  
25          its admirable record of past engineering

1 achievements. Thank you for this opportunity to  
2 offer comments.

3 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Steven.

4 Our next speaker is Joan Matthews. Joan?

5 Joan, I think you're unmuted now. Joan, we  
6 can't hear you. I'm going to continue to the next  
7 person.

8 Our next speaker is Alexander Patterson.  
9 Alexander?

10 ALEXANDER PATTERSON: Good evening. Can  
11 you hear me?

12 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Alex.

13 ALEXANDER PATTERSON: All right.

14 Good evening. My name is Alex Patterson.  
15 I'm the Campaign Coordinator for the Public Power  
16 New York Coalition. I live in Queens.

17 So, this update to the Strategic Plan is a  
18 half step in the right direction. But at the time  
19 when New Yorkers are facing number- -- numerous  
20 prices, such as the climate crisis, which just in  
21 the past week brought extreme heat, flooding, and  
22 poor air quality as a result of wildfires,  
23 refutability crisis to basic necessities, like  
24 rent and electricity, are taking up more and more  
25 of our hard-earned impacts.

1           An economic crisis, where job growth and  
2           inflation numbers suggest we are headed straight  
3           for a recession. And, of course, the crisis of  
4           the federal government, all meant on destroying  
5           the planet and selling off the parts to the  
6           highest bidders.

7           At a time like this, we cannot afford  
8           half-measures. That's why we need NYPA to step up  
9           and build the full 15 gigawatts necessary to close  
10          the gap on our climate crisis, create tens of  
11          thousands of union jobs, give direct relief to  
12          those struggling to pay their utility bills, and  
13          to close down (inaudible) peaker plants.

14          We know that the Trump administration is  
15          (inaudible) to cut out clean energy tax credits,  
16          NYPA will now be the only developer with the  
17          financial and technical capabilities to build the  
18          amount of renewables we need as profit rates trend  
19          towards decline.

20          NYPA must be transparent in their financial  
21          research that is done, and the amount of bonds  
22          they can issue while keeping their credit ratings  
23          in line with other comparable public power  
24          entities.

25          NYPA must also leave no stone unturned in

1 -- in finding private solar and wind developers to  
2 partner with in order to bring other projects  
3 online before the 2027 IRA phase-out.

4 NYPA must also leave no stone unturned in  
5 searching for public entities to partner with,  
6 such as SUNY and CUNY campuses, K through 12  
7 schools, the MPA, the City Health and hospitals,  
8 thousands of publicly-owned facilities across the  
9 state. The list is really endless.

10 I heard someone mention Co-op City and  
11 other -- Mitchell-Lama earlier, like -- and the  
12 possibility is really endless where NYPA can start  
13 to partner with.

14 On the subject of battery energy storage  
15 systems, NYPA must continue to pursue more and  
16 more of these projects that are critical to the  
17 energy transition.

18 And to clear up some of misinformation  
19 that's been said: The New York Fire Department,  
20 which has some of the most stringent safety  
21 standards in the country, has okayed the projects  
22 and said they are completely safe.

23 Former Commissioner Thomas Von Essen  
24 recently said, We're here to say clearly and  
25 confidently battery energy storage systems, when

1 installed and operated under (inaudible) enough,  
2 stated safety standards are safe.

3 And that's not to mention thousands of  
4 domestic battery manufacturing jobs that are set  
5 to produce for this industry.

6 Despite any changes to the federal tax  
7 credit, NYPA must commit to getting these projects  
8 built on an accelerated timeline by any and all  
9 financial means, including redirecting economic  
10 development funds away from bad actors like  
11 Citigroup, Lockheed Martin, and Amazon, and  
12 towards renewable projects that benefit regular  
13 New Yorkers.

14 NYPA must not give any (inaudible) vision  
15 where energy is developed at the direction of the  
16 Trump administration in order to power data  
17 centers --

18 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Alex.

19 ALEXANDER PATTERSON: -- AI, public  
20 energy --

21 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Alex.

22 ALEXANDER PATTERSON: -- has developed for  
23 regular New Yorkers.

24 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Alex.

25 Our next speaker is Fran Lunati. Fran?

1 We're going to call on Fran again if she's able to  
2 join.

3 Our next speaker is Alex Gable. Alex?

4 ALEX GABLE: Hi, I'm Alex Gable. I live in  
5 Albany, New York. The work NYPA has done up to  
6 this point is impressive, and I thank you all for  
7 your hard work on it.

8 I know NYPA is hearing a lot of demands for  
9 15 gigawatts of public renewables. I know that's  
10 very difficult to fund since NYPA is not funded by  
11 the state, so -- but I'll put it in terms for  
12 those who like money: Research from Cambridge  
13 indicates that under current greenhouse gas  
14 emissions trajectory, the U.S. would lose 10  
15 and-a-half percent of its GDP by the end of the  
16 century, and global GDP could decline by up to 24  
17 percent. Perhaps that will help to convince the  
18 powers that be to loosen up their purse strings a  
19 little bit.

20 I heard calls for improving the grid  
21 infrastructure in New York, and I agree. NYSERDA  
22 should receive more funding for their grid  
23 modernization program, but it's not really related  
24 to NYPA in this case.

25 I won't pretend like I know everything

1 about the current plan, but I agree with those who  
2 are calling for brownfield development, which  
3 means development in areas that are already  
4 developed, not just slapping solar panels down in  
5 an open field that could have otherwise been used  
6 for other productive means.

7 Lastly, again, I'll put forth the option of  
8 geothermal in abandoned mines, as they have  
9 already dug all of the -- the way down to the  
10 warmer areas, and the water is often already  
11 filled in -- into those mines when they close  
12 them.

13 That is it. Thank you.

14 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Alex.

15 Our next speaker is Kirstin Calister-Kuhi.  
16 Kirstin?

17 KIRSTIN CALISTER-KUHI: Hi. Can you hear  
18 me?

19 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thank you.

20 KIRSTIN CALISTER-KUHI: Okay.

21 Hi, I'm Kirsten. I am just a concerned and  
22 angry citizen of New York City. I wrote a little  
23 something down because I don't actually enjoy  
24 public speaking, truth to power, but I truly feel  
25 that my future and my family's future is being

1 destroyed in front of my eyes.

2 It never ceases to astound me that when  
3 everyday New Yorkers fight tooth and nail to pass  
4 a law, a law that puts public good above profit,  
5 and the people actually win, the battle still  
6 isn't over. We then have to fight all over again  
7 just to get our leaders to actually follow the law  
8 they agreed to. At times, it feels as though  
9 these laws are passed only to placate the public  
10 with the hope that we forget and quietly go away.

11 In New York, people organized and fought  
12 for over four years to win the Build Public  
13 Renewables Act. That law requires 15 gigawatts of  
14 renewable public energy -- public power by 2030.  
15 Not three, not seven, 15, which some might even  
16 say is too little, too late. And yet, NYPA's plan  
17 still falls short.

18 NYPA even admits themselves that many of  
19 the projects they propose may never be built.  
20 According to their own report, New York is on  
21 track for just 44 percent renewable electric by  
22 2030, far short of the 70 percent required by law.  
23 Meanwhile, there's still no plan for shutting down  
24 toxic peaker plants by 2030, even though the law  
25 requires it. And there are still too few projects

1 planned for Downstate and Hudson Valley, where the  
2 demand is greatest and where the most vulnerable  
3 communities deserve clean air, good jobs, and  
4 lower bills.

5 Our energy needs are increasing every year.  
6 That's not going to stop. That's just going to  
7 continue. Fossil fuels, however, are finite and  
8 they are dangerous. Just because you can't see a  
9 pipeline off your shore doesn't mean it isn't  
10 leaking pollution into our water. Mother Nature  
11 does not negotiate. She doesn't care about  
12 shareholders or political games. Her rules are  
13 simple: Take care of the environment, or go  
14 extinct.

15 So, I'm asking, what are we doing here?  
16 People fought for four years for this law. It  
17 passed. Now it needs to be enforced. 15  
18 gigawatts is not optional. It is the law, and  
19 it's truly the bare minimum. Anything less is  
20 failure. Thank you.

21 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Kirstin.

22 Our next speaker is Joan Matthews. Joan?

23 JOAN MATTHEWS: Can you hear me?

24 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Joan, for  
25 working with us.

1                   JOAN MATTHEWS: I'm sorry, I'm not  
2                   technologically savvy.

3                   Okay. So, I guess I just wanted to say  
4                   that I'm one of those many people in Long Island  
5                   that are voicing opposition, and I repeat the word  
6                   opposition. Not all New Yorkers want any of this  
7                   green -- not clean energy to be -- to be forced  
8                   down our throat.

9                   I just want to think about -- why are  
10                  people conserving energy? So many people are  
11                  wasting so much energy. It's ridiculous. So  
12                  maybe if people start conserving, we wouldn't be  
13                  in such a bad situation. Maybe people should talk  
14                  to people and interact rather than being on cell  
15                  phones where we need all this power for, or  
16                  computers all day.

17                  I feel like the Indian in the pollution  
18                  commercials in the 1970s, with a tear coming down  
19                  my eye, just being involved in this for over a  
20                  year now. I said, it's like a future movie side  
21                  of Erin Brockovich, and a movie where -- that  
22                  we're going to be in such a climate-destroyed  
23                  environment.

24                  Glenwood Landing, as well as Long Island  
25                  itself, but most likely here because we are being

1 disproportionately inundated by the best and the  
2 EMF-producing cables as well as the turbines in --  
3 in Long Island to -- to provide power for all of  
4 New York State.

5 So, why is Long Island being burdened with  
6 the risk of the power for New York State from all  
7 the BESSs, the New York propel cables, and the  
8 turbines?

9 There's also proof that the PROPEL project  
10 should not go forward. They've stopped it in the  
11 city. They need to stop it on Long Island because  
12 we're not going to do the turbines. It's not  
13 financially feasible, and they know that, and they  
14 continue to waste the money on it.

15 The other thing, too, is that -- first, I  
16 would like to open your eyes to the fact that wind  
17 blows from all over the world, as we've mentioned  
18 before. It's China. It's India. We're never  
19 going to meet these as long as these companies are  
20 still producing all these toxic things. Despite  
21 the fact that China may produce the technology to  
22 help out, they're not using it. So, what's the  
23 difference?

24 Second of all, the lobbyists, the unions,  
25 as well as the environmental groups, which we know

1           have -- because you have to disclose your  
2           information, who is getting the money from all  
3           these renewable companies. And you cannot deny  
4           it. I don't know how you even live with yourself  
5           for this.

6           The other jobs for the union workers -- you  
7           know what? Why don't you try working on the roads  
8           and maybe building housing? Because we don't want  
9           these things here. And we're telling you, again,  
10          we do not want them.

11          Why is NOAH allowing the cycle of sea life  
12          to be murdered for profits and our food sources?  
13          And we need all of our birds and bees and farmland  
14          to produce food. Have you not seen the movie  
15          Soylent Green? Check it out. It's quite  
16          frightening. Everything in this world is going to  
17          go the way the movies go, and it's not looking  
18          good.

19          France and Germany left solar power years  
20          ago. I think that you need to be aware -- we  
21          learned from California, we don't want this  
22          happening here. None of this stuff is recyclable.  
23          It's all toxic. It's going to infect our  
24          environment, our birds, our bees, all the animals,  
25          our food, our water.

1           So, what are we -- going to be done then  
2 when we have the clean air?

3           Second of all, if you want to live in the  
4 city, you pay that price. If I move next to a  
5 supermarket or a restaurant, I may have rats. I  
6 deal with it. You opted to move there; you have  
7 to deal with it.

8           Brownouts and blackouts have not been here.  
9 Where have they been all summer? We have not seen  
10 them. Wildfires happen all the time. Everywhere.  
11 Nuclear is cheaper. New York State has --

12           LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Joan. Thank  
13 you, Joan.

14           JOAN MATTHEWS: Thank you.

15           LINDSAY KRYZAK: Our next speaker --  
16 thanks.

17           Our next speaker is Robert Mazzella.  
18 Robert?

19           ROBERT MAZZELLA: Hi, can you hear me?

20           LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Robert.

21           ROBERT MAZZELLA: Thank you.

22           Any plan that is dependent upon lithium --  
23 lithium-ion battery storage facilities needs to be  
24 redesigned to eliminate the need for these  
25 combustible, toxic, ticking time bombs.

1           For so-called environmentalists to ignore  
2           the negative environmental impact and horrific  
3           conditions that children in foreign countries are  
4           forced to work in during lithium mining is  
5           unconscionable. To say we need to have a clean  
6           energy grid and to advocate for the use of the  
7           extremely hazardous landfill-destined,  
8           environmentally damaging materials within  
9           lithium-ion batteries is oxymoronic.

10           To advocate for a plan that puts any of  
11           these toxic facilities on Long Island, which is  
12           physically incapable of having an effective  
13           emergency evacuation plan, shows another disregard  
14           for the health and safety of every Long Island  
15           resident.

16           And for the President of NYSERDA to  
17           advocate for a plan that is dependent upon the use  
18           of BESS facilities while he lives in one of the  
19           only communities in New York that has banned BESS  
20           facilities is the height of hypocrisy. Thank you.

21           LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Robert.

22           Our next speaker is Tatum McConnell. Tatum?

23           TATUM MCCONNELL: Hello.

24           LINDSAY KRYZAK: Hi, Tatum.

25           TATUM MCCONNELL: My name -- my name is

1 Tatum McConnell. I'm a student and a White Plains  
2 resident. I'm very concerned about New York's  
3 energy future. Like every single person on this  
4 call and in the world, I am feeling the effects of  
5 the climate crisis.

6 This year, in New York, we've been dealing  
7 with extreme heat, and flooding, and poor air  
8 quality. 7 gigawatts is not enough to meet the  
9 demands of the CLCPA, and I truly view this as an  
10 issue of human rights.

11 Some people might want to count this  
12 increase as a win, but it simply does not meet the  
13 urgency of the moment we're in, the urgency of  
14 both the climate crisis and the affordability  
15 crisis that New Yorkers are facing.

16 The CLCPA is ambitious for a reason. It's  
17 not something we can simply give up on. We must  
18 escape the fossil fuel death spiral we're  
19 currently in. Of course, climate impacts are not  
20 felt equally. There's a higher burden on black  
21 and brown communities, particularly from NYPA's  
22 gas-powered peaker plants.

23 And I wanted to express my concern that  
24 NYPA is not sincere in its commitment to close  
25 these plants. Based on reading the last report

1 published on their potential closure, the report  
2 that was published, I believe in May, does not  
3 cover public renewables and a transition plan as a  
4 viable pathway for closing these peaker plants.

5 Studies done without this in place are  
6 really just a waste of taxpayer resources because  
7 we know they'll find that closing them isn't  
8 viable without a solid transition plan to clean  
9 renewable energy.

10 I was following the Clean Path transition  
11 line effort, and I applauded NYPA's work there,  
12 and I'm very dismayed by the Public Service  
13 Commission's short-sighted and poorly reasoned  
14 decision to deny that application.

15 It's clear that Kathy Hochul has abandoned  
16 all rational thought on energy affordability and  
17 the climate crisis, but that doesn't mean our  
18 state agencies should, too.

19 When we look ahead to increasing energy  
20 demands from extreme weather, AI data centers, an  
21 insufficient buildout of publicly-owned clean  
22 energy, guarantees higher bills and unreliable  
23 surface. So, I'm very concerned about a future  
24 where blackouts become an everyday reality due to  
25 New York's poor planning.

1           We can get ahead of this, and we should.  
2           So, I urge NYPA to build a full buildout of 15  
3           gigawatts of renewable energy by 2030. And for  
4           those on this call who want to question the  
5           motivations of anyone fighting for more renewable  
6           energy, I want to be very clear: I do not get  
7           paid to speak up for my future. Thank you.

8           LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Tatum.

9           Our next speaker is Marsha North. Marsha?  
10          Marcia North. Marcia, are you still on?

11          MARSHA NORTH: Hello.

12          LINDSAY KRYZAK: Hi, Marcia. Thanks for  
13          joining. We can hear you.

14          MARSHA NORTH: Okay. I -- I am a resident.  
15          I -- I live in Freedom, New York, which is a rural  
16          area, and we're having a wind turbine project  
17          being built here now as I am speaking.

18          The wind turbines are -- are close to  
19          600-foot tall. A lot of these wind and solar --  
20          the large -- large-scale subsidies, the  
21          government's subsidies, as far as I'm concerned,  
22          they are less renewable, and they get -- with the  
23          large subsidies, they get to masquerade as  
24          affordable by off- -- offsetting the cost to  
25          appear as -- then -- by offsetting the cost, it

1 appears as though they are more affordable than  
2 they are when there is artificially low price.  
3 This -- this discourages more reliable resources,  
4 like natural gas, nuclear, hydroelectric power  
5 from being built.

6 I am watching trees being destroyed so that  
7 they can make their roadways for -- for the -- for  
8 the wind turbines, for the transmission lines.  
9 This area that was green is no longer as green.

10 As we are trying to seek renewable energy,  
11 we -- we need to look at all aspects of everything  
12 because you can't say, Oh, let's do this, and  
13 let's destroy this area over here.

14 This project is land-intensive, 25,607  
15 acres. We are losing at least 1,500 acres of  
16 carbon-absorbing trees for the turbine  
17 construction alone. And this is not taking into  
18 account what trees are being taken down for  
19 transmission lines.

20 The New York State DEC estimates 26,800 to  
21 39,500 bats will be killed annually. And we're  
22 going to be losing those. We're going to be  
23 losing our -- our birds for unreliable energy.

24 I am not a fan of these tall turbines being  
25 placed close to residents' homes. The -- the

1 blades are not recyclable. Solar panels -- where  
2 Earth metals have to be mined for these -- for  
3 these turbines.

4 We need to be very selective if you want to  
5 use these large-scale renewables as to where you  
6 are going to be placing them so that you are not  
7 affecting other -- to not affecting the  
8 communities and the residents who live here.

9 I would like to see more nuclear being  
10 built. Nuclear is -- is the greenest and it --  
11 and it's very reliable. The solar and wind are  
12 not, and you have to have a lot of storage battery  
13 buildout for them. Thank you.

14 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Marsha.

15 Our next speaker registered under Concerned  
16 Resident.

17 CONCERNED RESIDENT: Hi. Yes.

18 I would like to start by saying New York  
19 State has done a great job. You're 0.4 percent  
20 greenhouse gas emissions in a global environment.  
21 0.4. I don't understand this rush to destruction  
22 for the state, putting the health and safety of  
23 residents at risk with toxic-ticking-time-bomb  
24 BESS facilities that are unstable.

25 Have we not seen what happened at Moss

1           Landing? The destruction of farmland where we get  
2           our produce from? The destruction of the Elkhorn  
3           Slough? The fact that they needed an  
4           eight-square-mile radius. Residents would not be  
5           able to evacuate Long Island. We couldn't  
6           air-tight our homes. And your fire safety  
7           standards -- they do nothing to help residents.  
8           It's 15 minutes for a dispatch, 4 hours to be on  
9           site.

10                   They're peer reviewing each other. There's  
11           no penalties for them. We live on Long Island.  
12           We have sole-source aquifers. Let's talk about  
13           how all of this is hazardous waste material to go  
14           into landfills. We fought for years to close  
15           landfills, and now you just want to put hazardous  
16           waste in landfills.

17                   This State clearly has not thought this  
18           plan through. They have not dotted their i's,  
19           they have not crossed their t's, and they haven't  
20           learned lessons from the past.

21                   They're rushing forward, and they don't  
22           even know what steps 2, 3, 4, and 5 are, but yet  
23           we're implementing a rapid act.

24                   Let's talk about the Article 7 process.  
25           It's a broken process where projects like PROPEL

1 are getting their applications approved before  
2 they've even done all of the work to say if the  
3 project is feasible or not. Residents' voices are  
4 supposed to be considered. I come from a  
5 community where our residents are not being  
6 considered.

7 PROPEL doesn't care about the residents  
8 here. They do work in the middle of the night.  
9 They don't care about the impact to the  
10 communities. They're surrounding homes in three  
11 and four sides with high-voltage EMF emitting  
12 cables. They're taking out every access roadway  
13 that we have to get in, out, and through the  
14 community. They're going to destroy small  
15 business, and they're proposing structures that  
16 have over 230 milligauss, and the milligauss is  
17 based on 1978 standards, and medicine has advanced  
18 since then.

19 I sincerely hope that this State takes a  
20 beat. We're 0.4 percent greenhouse gas emissions.  
21 There's no need to rush into this development,  
22 especially when you're contracting for wind at  
23 155. That's a 4X, and you got to add cables and  
24 batteries, and we currently pay \$36 per megawatt  
25 hour. Stop the insanity.

1 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you. Thank you.  
2 Our next speaker is Eric Eisenberg. Eric?

3 ERIC EISENBERG: Oh, hi. Can you -- can  
4 you hear me?

5 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Eric.

6 ERIC EISENBERG: Hi. My name is Eric  
7 Eisenberg. I'm a Manhattan attorney. I am not  
8 paid to speak today. I'm just speaking on my own  
9 behalf.

10 Just -- just for a little bit of context,  
11 I'm going to say something which -- which might  
12 not be a -- a popular or universe- -- universally  
13 agreed opinion, but I thought that -- that  
14 September 11th was -- was bad. We lost almost  
15 3,000 Americans on September 11th. It was  
16 horrific. We went to war over it, and we were  
17 really, really mad at the people who caused those  
18 almost 3,000 deaths.

19 I'm also looking at a document from the New  
20 York City Health Department. It states that every  
21 year, we lose 3,200 New Yorkers to air pollution.  
22 Every year, that's a 9/11 of people lost to air  
23 pollution. Every year.

24 I went to, you know, some of the -- the  
25 finest Ivy League law schools in the state. I

1 studied at Cornell. I studied at Columbia. And  
2 one thing we learned there is that when somebody  
3 breaks the law and kills people, that's murder.  
4 Kathy Hochul does not seem interested in following  
5 the law with respect to creating 15 gigawatts of  
6 renewable energy.

7 So, we're relying on fossil fuels, and  
8 3,200 New York City residents are dying every  
9 year. It's totally unacceptable. We need to  
10 follow the law. We need to keep this 9/11 from  
11 occurring every single year in New York City.

12 15 gigawatts is the bare minimum that will  
13 accomplish the CLCPA, and it's the least we can do  
14 when Kathy Hochul is responsible for this level of  
15 deaths from things like fossil fuel peaker plants  
16 throughout the City of New York, killing so, so  
17 many New Yorkers.

18 Please follow the law. Do not stand by,  
19 and allow this horrific death toll to continue.  
20 Thank you.

21 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Eric.

22 Our next speaker is Denise Willard.

23 Denise?

24 DENISE WILLARD: Can you hear me?

25 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Denise.

1 DENISE WILLARD: Okay. I was not prepared  
2 at all. I got to flip over here.

3 By the time I was notified of this meeting,  
4 I was at work, and by the time I got home, it was  
5 6:00 at night.

6 My name is Denise Willard. I'm a resident  
7 of Freedom, New York, where the Alle-Catt Wind  
8 Project is being built. I'm wondering how many of  
9 the New York City residents that are in favor of  
10 wind and solar have visited the wind -- any wind  
11 or solar project sites?

12 To -- if -- if you -- you would be  
13 concerned if you saw a -- while the -- the  
14 turbines over in Bliss, that I pass by every  
15 day -- Bliss, New York, that I pass by every day,  
16 every darn one of them is leaking -- yes.  
17 Leaking, yes, fossil fuel oil down the tower.  
18 Every one of them.

19 I have pictures. I don't have any like  
20 right with me now because I wasn't ready for this.  
21 But there are pictures. You can drive by and you  
22 can drive down Route 39 in Bliss, New York. Well,  
23 those ones, the 450-foot ones, are being torn  
24 down. And then they will put up 700-foot-tall  
25 ones, ruining other people's lives.

1           See, this is what I don't understand, too.  
2           And I heard someone speak earlier about conserving  
3           energy. I would like to know that, too. I work  
4           -- I work in an office for New York State, and I  
5           wear a sweatshirt every day. Why should I be  
6           wearing a sweatshirt when it's summer out?  
7           Because they have the air conditioning set so low  
8           that I freeze, so I have a sweatshirt on.

9           And then you have -- people are talking  
10          about energy hikes. You haven't seen anything  
11          yet. The energy hikes are caused by this  
12          renewable energy push. They were -- they're  
13          shoving it down our throats.

14          Some of these turbines that are proposed  
15          for the Alle-Catt Wind Project are going to be  
16          600-foot tall. Did you know -- have you ever  
17          looked into shadow flicker? The shadow flicker  
18          from these 600-foot industrial wind turbines is  
19          going to go over a mile. I have -- there's a -- a  
20          load of -- a lot of wind energy groups out there  
21          on Facebook. I've become good friends with Lisa  
22          Myers out West. She gets -- she -- she is  
23          surrounded by industrial wind turbines. She gets  
24          migraine headaches from the shadow flicker.

25          So, you guys there that call us NIMBYs, I'm

1 wondering if you want your lights flashing all day  
2 long, every day. The --

3 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Denise.

4 DENISE WILLARD: Yeah.

5 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Our next speaker is Daniel  
6 Kwiatkowski. Daniel?

7 DANIEL KWIATKOWSKI: Hello. Can you hear  
8 me?

9 LINDSAY KRYZAK: We can. Thanks, Daniel.

10 DANIEL KWIATKOWSKI: Hi. Yeah, I just  
11 wanted to comment in support of the plan to  
12 increase the renewables up to -- from the 3 to the  
13 7. And I think more immediately, all the way up  
14 to 15.

15 I'm concerned about the rising energy  
16 crisis with all these projects getting canceled,  
17 and electricity prices going up, and not filling  
18 the gap with more energy. So, that, and then I'm  
19 also concerned about the air pollution and asthma  
20 that we've been facing in New York City with the  
21 wildfires, and also just the particulate matter  
22 from automobiles and peaker plants. So, I think  
23 all that is an important thing to be addressed.  
24 Thanks.

25 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Daniel.

1           Our next speaker is Kimberly Scannell.

2           Kimberly?

3           KIMBERLY SCANNELL: Hi. Thank you.

4           LINDSAY KRYZAK: Hi, Kimberly.

5           KIMBERLY SCANNELL: Thank you for allowing  
6           us to be here this evening and to make comments.  
7           I am going to speak, unfortunately, out about the  
8           hard work that has gone into this plan, because  
9           frankly, I don't think that the work that has been  
10          done has been the kind of work that we need to  
11          see.

12          Somebody a lot smarter than I am said once  
13          upon a time that insanity is doing the same thing  
14          over and over again, and expecting a different  
15          result. And as far as I'm concerned, that's  
16          really what I'm seeing here with the State energy  
17          plan. It's really kind of a mixed bag.

18          It -- it blames a lot of other mitigating  
19          factors, like inflation, and COVID, and Trump, on  
20          why the CLCPA goals can't be met. But it really  
21          falls short, saying that this plan, in fact, is  
22          seriously flawed.

23          In my mind, it's a dog-and-pony show. We  
24          are using solar and wind, which are intermittent  
25          energies. We're using batteries that can only --

1           maybe four or five hours hold electricity before  
2           we send it to Downstate.

3                       We're appeasing Downstate activists that  
4           don't really understand what Upstate Rural New  
5           York is like, that our farmland and our towns are  
6           being impacted by the choices that our State  
7           energy plan is making for us.

8                       Nuclear energy, in my opinion, is -- it's  
9           firm. It's reliable. It -- it's something that  
10          we should be considering a lot more. And I'm  
11          happy that we are finally starting to have a  
12          conversation about this.

13                      But if we were truly concerned with the way  
14          that things were happening, we would take a step  
15          back and say that the original CLCPA goals can't  
16          be met, and this isn't working. And instead of  
17          starting from the ground up and coming up with a  
18          better plan, we're just kind of revamping it.

19                      We wouldn't do that in our own lives if our  
20          car didn't work, right? We -- we can't just say,  
21          well, we're going to keep this car the way it is,  
22          and we're just going to take it apart and try to  
23          put it back, and we're going to use exactly the  
24          same faulty parts. That's what we're doing with  
25          this State energy plan.

1 I'm not an economist. I'm not an engineer,  
2 but I have read the whole CLCPA, and I -- I've  
3 kept myself informed. And unfortunately, this  
4 just isn't going to work. If we want to see a  
5 change, we have to do things differently. This  
6 energy plan is not going to work the way that it  
7 is written and the way it's going to be carried  
8 out. We're seeing it every single day, every  
9 single time that we pick up our electricity bills.  
10 And if our state really wanted us to be making a  
11 difference and to be green, we wouldn't be  
12 destroying Upstate New York so that Downstate can  
13 have more electricity. Thank you.

14 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Kimberly.

15 Our next speaker is Matthew Smith. And  
16 Matthew, will you raise your hand? I know there's  
17 a couple of Matthew Smiths, and I apologize for  
18 not getting to you earlier.

19 Matthew, if you can also unmute yourself in  
20 the bottom left-hand corner. Okay. Matthew,  
21 we'll come to you. It could be something else we  
22 can try.

23 We're also going to go back to Michele  
24 Stuart. Michele, I think you're back on the line.

25 NAT TOWSEN: I'm here. I'm not Michele.

1           LINDSAY KRYZAK: Oh, Matthew, wonderful.  
2 Thank you so much. Michele, we'll get back to  
3 you.

4           Matthew, go ahead.

5           NAT TOWSEN: I'm not Matthew. I'm Nat  
6 Townsen. Is that who you meant to call up?

7           LINDSAY KRYZAK: I don't know that we have  
8 you registered. We had a Matthew Smith who's been  
9 messaging us about this.

10          NAT TOWSEN: I'm here. I've been messaging  
11 you. I don't believe my name should register as  
12 Matthew Smith.

13          My name is Nat Townsen. I was registered  
14 there. I would be happy to speak now if you don't  
15 mind.

16          LINDSAY KRYZAK: Okay. Nat, and I'll just  
17 -- I need to get some contact information from you  
18 because right now you're logged in, and it looks  
19 like Matthew Smith, so I'll follow up with you in  
20 a minute. But if you can --

21          NAT TOWSEN: Sure. And I did --

22          LINDSAY KRYZAK: -- go ahead.

23          NAT TOWSEN: -- register, and I'm adding to  
24 the chat my name so you can see right there and  
25 look for the registration. I would be happy to

1 provide more later.

2 Thank you. My name is --

3 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Okay. Thank you.

4 NAT TOWSEN: -- (inaudible) -- oh, thank  
5 you.

6 My name is Nat Townsend. You might have  
7 met me last fall at the in-person hearing at John  
8 Jay, which I thought was a really great  
9 opportunity for New Yorkers to speak to the state  
10 legislators to NYPA directly. And I think that  
11 not holding in-person hearings this time is a huge  
12 mistake.

13 I mean, I get it. If I got yelled at for  
14 two hours, I wouldn't schedule that meeting a  
15 second time, but I do think it's an essential part  
16 of our democracy for New York State residents to  
17 be able to speak freely on this, and not only on  
18 Zoom that's during commuting or work hours.

19 As I mentioned, my name is Nat Towsen. I'm  
20 a native New Yorker. Stevenson High School  
21 graduate. I'm also a government worker. I do  
22 live in Brooklyn, but many of our listeners will  
23 be happy to (inaudible) my family is both Upstate  
24 and on Long Island, and they all support the  
25 transition to green renewable energy and to

1 building 15 gigawatts.

2 I am not paid. I'm a volunteer. I'm  
3 taking time out of my day. I'm making dinner  
4 right now to talk to you about this. As I  
5 mentioned, we spoke about this last fall, and  
6 during that time, I told you how a week earlier,  
7 during the wildfires in New York and New Jersey,  
8 my family's home had almost burned to the ground.  
9 The wildfire remarkably stopped 100 feet away from  
10 my family, losing everything.

11 And I guarantee you that that family, which  
12 does not live in the five boroughs, wants us to  
13 build 15 gigawatts.

14 Now, as we spoke last fall, I said, I  
15 understand and support your then plan to build 3.5  
16 gigawatts. Although, as I pointed out at the  
17 time, that was 23.3 percent of the amount advised  
18 by the CLCPA, which only gets us in so doing to 70  
19 percent, not even 100 percent renewable energy,  
20 which should really be our goal.

21 And so, I -- I applaud you on doubling that  
22 plan, hearing us, on listening to our impassioned  
23 speeches, on the feedback from real New Yorkers,  
24 and doubling that plan to 7 gigawatts. And a lot  
25 of people have said, we're halfway there. We are

1 actually not literally, we're less than literally  
2 halfway there. That is, unfortunately, 46.6  
3 (technical difficulty) percent, which, as anyone  
4 here who is a fellow public school graduate  
5 understands, is a failing grade.

6 This also is not a 65-percent passing  
7 grade. This is all or nothing. You know, this is  
8 horseshoes. You have to get it all the way around  
9 the wicket. You have to get 100 percent of this,  
10 or we have failed.

11 I also said last fall that we were facing  
12 an administration that would dismantle all funding  
13 for climate science and for fighting climate  
14 change. I was correct. You knew I would be  
15 correct. We can no longer treat this in the  
16 hypothetical. This is really happening. There is  
17 nothing more important in your life than your  
18 existence.

19 We're not here to launder Kathy Hochul's  
20 business connections. You are here to save the  
21 Earth. You are here to fulfill FDR's mission:fw  
22 convert New York to renewable energy. Don't just  
23 build 15 gigawatts. Start with 15 gigawatts.  
24 Your next plan should say 15 gigawatts and a plan  
25 for how to improve from there. Thank you, both

1 Upstate and Downstate. Kathy Hochul, please  
2 resign.

3 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Nat.

4 Matthew Smith, if you're on the line, we  
5 will reach out to you. I think we have your email  
6 down for now, and we'll try to connect to get you  
7 guys and make sure those statements are in the  
8 record.

9 Our final speaker will be Michele Stuart.  
10 That is our list of people who registered. There  
11 are a number of people whom we called on, and you  
12 had not logged in. If people were unable to join,  
13 please remember there are comments for the record,  
14 but I believe Michele is on.

15 And Michele, can you hear me?

16 MICHELE STUART: Yes, I can hear you.

17 LINDSAY KRYZAK: Perfect. Thank you so  
18 much.

19 MICHELE STUART: Thank you so much for --  
20 for the opportunity tonight.

21 I'm Michele. I actually live in Somers, a  
22 place where we had a 116-megawatt lithium-ion  
23 battery energy storage facility application. And  
24 I do oppose this renewable plan. It lacks  
25 realistic and meaningful execution, research of

1 health and safety plans for the people in this  
2 state.

3 You know, the way that this all started  
4 many years ago, part of the pieces of this is the  
5 Rapid Act, which, by the way, nobody really knows  
6 about. They don't understand that their elected  
7 officials voted for this because there really is  
8 no transparency.

9 Why do you think that there aren't hundreds  
10 of thousands to millions of people on this call?  
11 Energy is, you know, one of the most important  
12 things in our lives. Don't you think that there's  
13 a reason that people aren't on this call? Because  
14 the public doesn't understand. They don't know  
15 what you are even doing.

16 The people who do know what is being pushed  
17 are displaying their outrage with moratoriums, and  
18 bills, and zoning codes to oppose having these  
19 plans move forward.

20 Meanwhile, there are still bills being put  
21 forward in the Senate to pull home rule when  
22 you've got towns screaming that they do not want  
23 these clean energy -- and I'm using quotation  
24 marks because they are not clean.

25 And so, you need to really think about what

1 is right and what is wrong in this state. We do  
2 need energy solutions. We need diverse solutions.  
3 To attempt 100 percent carbon-free or anywhere  
4 near that doesn't make any sense. We have zero  
5 experience in executing clean energy in a way that  
6 is equitable and meaningful, and helpful for the  
7 people in the state.

8 So, somebody on here spoke about asthma,  
9 but I just want to talk a little bit about the  
10 impact of the storage facilities that the state is  
11 planning to use. These are batteries. They're  
12 filled with lithium. And I don't know if anybody  
13 has even spoken to a pulmonologist because nowhere  
14 in any of the data do I see input from the medical  
15 and scientific community.

16 I see input from inexperienced  
17 firefighters, and energy companies, and  
18 politicians who they themselves don't understand  
19 what they're even pushing forward, I believe. And  
20 we do have one example of the impact of these  
21 facilities, and that's in Moss Landing. And we  
22 saw people up to, I believe, over 30 miles  
23 potentially being impacted by the toxic gases of  
24 hydrogen fluoride and hydrogen cyanide that are  
25 emitted by these facilities. You see the land,

1 the food, everything being destroyed. There's no  
2 plan to support people who are in evacuation zones  
3 for these BESS facilities.

4 Close your eyes and imagine you're in your  
5 home, you have small children, and you have to  
6 evacuate. Your -- you have a child with asthma,  
7 they can't breathe; now they have to go to the  
8 hospital.

9 What -- who's paying for these bills? Now  
10 your house, you can't live in it. There are toxic  
11 chemicals everywhere. You have to replace  
12 windows, clean the outside of your home. Your  
13 entire home is contaminated. You can't drink the  
14 water. Who is going to deal with this? What are  
15 you going to do with all of the people that could  
16 be displaced and harmed by these facilities?

17 And so, the math does not math. We are all  
18 dealing with energy bills that are going through  
19 the roof, when all this started, when nuclear  
20 power plants were shut down. So, until there is a  
21 plan in place that makes sense, that is equitable,  
22 that actually will demonstrate any research or  
23 documentation that this can be done in a safe way,  
24 I think you all need to take a long pause on what  
25 you are trying to do, and really think about

1           whether or not what you're doing is going to harm  
2           people.

3                     And if you can actually feel -- you know,  
4           close your eyes and be able to go to sleep and  
5           feel good about yourself at night. Or, if deep  
6           down inside, you know it is wrong, it is harmful,  
7           and it just doesn't make sense. And I don't know  
8           why anybody would -- in this -- in this state,  
9           this great state, would even allow this.

10                    LINDSAY KRYZAK: Thank you, Michele.

11                    That concludes our list of registered  
12           speakers for this evening. For those of you who  
13           were unable to complete all of your comments and  
14           those whom we did not get to this evening, thank  
15           you for your feedback. And please know you can  
16           still submit your comments via the portal on our  
17           website at [nypa.gov/renewables](http://nypa.gov/renewables).

18                    We appreciate your input and your interest  
19           in New York's energy landscape, and look forward  
20           to continuing to work together as we advance our  
21           plans.

22                    Again, please submit any additional  
23           comments through our comment period ending on  
24           September 12th at [nypa.gov/renewables](http://nypa.gov/renewables). Thank you.

25                    (Thereupon, at 8:27 p.m., this public

1 hearing was adjourned.)

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CERTIFICATE of REPORTER

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I, Jackie Mentecky, Court Reporter, State of Florida at Large, certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing proceedings and that the transcript, page 1 through 68, is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

Dated this 21st day of August, 2025.

/s/ Jackie Mentecky

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Jackie Mentecky  
Court Stenographer